

MUM'S LOVE TAKES HER TO THE PEAK OF KILIMANJARO

by TIM CHAPMAN

A LOCAL woman, whose son has cystic fibrosis, has raised more than £8,000 – by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.

Diane Bluck, aged 55, from Llyswnnery, organised a fundraising ball at The Bear Hotel three years ago, which netted more than £10,000, but this year set herself the more daunting challenge of taking on Africa's highest mountain in north eastern Tanzania.

Diane told The GEM: "I want to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported me



LEFT: Diane with her son Richard and his fiancée Natalie.

edge that after all the training we had succeeded in our aim."

Kilimanjaro peaks at 5,895 metres (19,341 ft above sea level) and Diane prepared for the climb with trips to the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia.

And while she was scaling Kilimanjaro, Richard's fiancée, Natalie McCann, was raising funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Adult Unit at Llandough Hospital, which Richard attends.

Natalie ran the Cardiff Half Marathon in October and raised £1,500, which will go towards purchasing new ventilators for the CF unit.

Richard commented: "I am truly grateful for all the generosity shown by family and friends to raise such fantastic amounts."

"I think what my mum and Natalie have achieved and done to help me is a true example of the love and dedication a family has for one another."

"I want to thank them both for their efforts and determination."

and made a donation to the challenge.

"So far, I've raised £8,200 for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, but I still have a number of donations to collect."

"I was one of 30 individuals attempting the climb with Skyline, an adventure holiday company which enables

individuals to raise funds for charities that are close to their heart."

She paid for the cost of the trip herself, so that all the funds donated go to the trust.

Diane supports the

cystic fibrosis charity because her son Richard, aged 27, has the illness. Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disorder which attacks primarily the lungs and digestive system of sufferers.

Diane said: "Our group followed the less trodden, but very scenic Machame route. Two thirds of us, 18 in all, including me, reached the highest summit Uhuru Peak, on October 21, after a five-day ascent."

"It was a challenging trek at altitude but I was very lucky not to be affected. The all-night trek to the summit after a hard day's walking tested us both physically and mentally, but we were rewarded by spectacular views, beautiful glaciers and the knowl-



A triumphant Diane at the summit.



Local Cubs were among those paying their respects at Cowbridge Cenotaph. PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK.

REMEMBERING THEM

THE conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan appear to have sharpened people's understanding of Remembrance Day, and in Cowbridge, as in other towns across the Vale, it was people of all generations who wanted to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

(FOR MORE PHOTOGRAPHS, PLEASE TURN TO PAGES 18 AND 19).



NEWS FROM OTHER GEM EDITIONS

Masked raid at a Barry post office, Wednesday, November 17.
Log onto: www.barry-today.co.uk

Surfer airlifted from Marcross on Monday, November 15.
Log onto: www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
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Y BONT FAEN

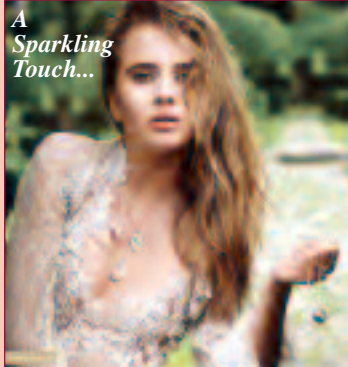
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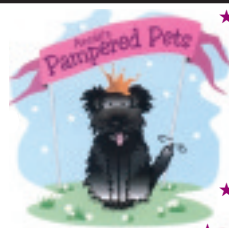
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Barry fireworks night was not a damp squib!

ON behalf of the Barry Rotary Club, I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the fireworks on Barry Island in the appalling conditions on Friday, November 5.

As a club we have, over the years, been very concerned that if we got a night such as we did, very few people would come and we would take little money – and that as a consequence, we would not have enough in our funds to be able to hold the next year's display.

In fact, although we expect takings to be down to some extent, we were very gratified to see so many people braving the elements and making it a success!

At the same time, I want to apologise, because you did not get

the full spectacle. As you probably realise, such displays (like everything else!) are computer-controlled these days, and rain and electricians do not mix.

Despite the brave technicians who, for 12 hours, battled the driving rain and wind and attempted to keep everything dry while they set it up, some of the display would not fire – in particular, the final crescendo, which is always the highlight of these events.

So, once again, my thanks to everyone who attended and made the event possible in such weather – including the Vale Council workers, the police, and the Rotarians.

We will try to do better next year – hopefully on a better night!

Ceri Griffiths
(president, Barry Rotary Club)

GRIMSBY LINK WITH THE VALE

MY great-great granddad was Thomas Whitney. I recently purchased Llanblethian Buildings and People from Cowbridge Record Society, as my great, great grandfather is mentioned in it, on pages 88 and 91.

Thomas and Mary Ann Whitney were married on May 14, 1842, had 12 children and lived in Llanblethian. Although I have traced some of them through the censuses, up until 1901, I have now come to a standstill!

I am hoping to contact any descendants of Thomas Whitney, who



Thomas and Mary Ann's grave in Ramoth Baptist Chapel, Westgate, Cowbridge.

may still live in the area.

I have been compiling my family history for two years now, and am told by Mrs Rawlins of the Cowbridge Record Society, that many people have had success in tracing their family through your newspaper.

Diana Smith (née Whitney),
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'MoD SITE TRAINING STILL FEASIBLE'

Questions that remain in wake of Metrix bid

FURTHER to Coun Rhodri Traherne's

letter in the November 11 edition of The GEM – what arrogance! And such a condescending tone from a public servant!

Everyone that I have spoken to, almost without exception, recognises that establishing tri-service training for British personnel using the excellent facilities within the confines of the current MoD St Athan site is still feasible.

But Coun Traherne attend any of the Metrix-Consortium public promotional meetings to hear the con-

cerns of local residents, or has spoken to any of them since? Did he attend the associated Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Inquiry and listen to the evidence?

Where is the detail in his letter? Can he confirm that the northern access road and 168 service family houses on the Tremains Farm site have been cancelled?

Has he lobbied for the release into the public domain of the CPO Inspector's report – promised for March of this year?

Has he an answer about the Aerospace Business Park (ABP) which is linked to the MoD St Athan development?

Can he confirm that

the ABP project is still going ahead and has a viable business plan – despite the retraction of the current PFI? And where on earth did he get the figure of £1/2 billion pounds a year being injected into the local economy?

Surely, this is just a pie-in-the-sky figure left over from the Metrix-Consortium propaganda put about to the general public and in the smoke and mirrors of the corridors of the Welsh Assembly and Whitehall.

Clearly, we know from governmental information that service

training is still likely to go ahead at the base sometime in the future 'within the wire'; and this can only be good news, especially if it generates beneficial jobs for the local community and associated trade.

But let's not delude ourselves that there will still be the usual uncertainty about hidden agendas.

This is only reinforced by the lack of response to letters sent by me to the Secretary of State for Wales about the DTC/ABP project.

Doug Mountain,
Llantwit Major

A letter to Felix the cat...

DEAR Felix the cat and all your cute kitty friends, I agree with you that humans behave badly towards the planet (The GEM last week).

One of the stupid things we've done is to proliferate damaging species everywhere we go – even on beautiful islands with delicately balanced-ecosystems, we take our cats, along with goats, pigs, dogs etc.

Please would you teach my neighbours' cats to be as clean and respectable as yourself? My friend who is blind, grows vegetables in raised beds, which seem to make excellent cat toilets.

Your friends' owners suggest I should get a cat of my own, then I won't be bothered by other people's. Hmmm, you have to marvel at such a selfless approach to life!

(Name and address supplied)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 25)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
18 Thur	03.49	8.3	16.07	8.7
19 Fri	04.33	8.7	16.51	8.9
20 Sat	05.10	9.1	17.27	9.2
21 Sun	05.48	9.3	18.08	9.4
22 Mon	06.20	9.5	18.41	9.6
23 Tues	07.01	9.7	19.20	9.6
24 Wed	07.39	9.7	20.04	9.5
25 Thur	08.21	9.5	20.44	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Airport drop-off and pick-up a shambles

IHAD to drop my son at Cardiff Airport on Friday night and knew about the £1 drop-off (rip-off) fee as I have dropped people off before.

It took approximately 20 seconds for my son to exit my car with his bag. I then drove to the payment machine to pay £1 for the privilege of stopping for 20 seconds.

I had only put on a light jacket as I know the set-up at the airport and knew I could park feet from the payment machine.

The machine was 'out

of order', so I then had to walk over to customer services in the Arrivals area to pay the £1 fee.

It was raining so I got soaked. When I went to the customer service counter, there were five people standing around doing nothing, three of whom had NCP all-weather coats on.

Why couldn't one of them stand by the broken machine and collect the £1?

In all, it took me 20 seconds to drop off and seven minutes (approximately) and a soaking to leave.

'Priority' drop-off it is not. It is a shambles. (Name and address supplied)

Mencap event: 'THANK YOU'

THE Barry Male Voice Choir sang at the Rhooose Social Club recently, in aid of Barry and District Mencap.

Many thanks to the choir, the social club and to everyone who donated raffle prizes or helped in any way to make this a very special evening.

Nearly £700 was raised on the night.
Val Lovering,
Rhooose

GEM One-Liners

ARE YOU OFTEN IRRITATED ABOUT SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN OR READ?

You think about writing The GEM a letter to make your feelings known - but somehow never get around to it - or just do not seem to have time!

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Here are some examples:

"Good to see the pot holes being dealt with in Cowbridge - A Williams"

"We have a wonderful new comprehensive school in Cowbridge, but no swimming pool - ridiculous! F Jones"

"Has anyone reported the fly-tipping yet in Llantwit Major? W Thomas"

You get the idea. With the cuts in the public sector announced, it's likely that there will be many local issues to highlight.

But remember, we're looking for both the positive and negative!

The Editor

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MP, contact the constituency office 01446 403814.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM,

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Chief Dental Officer for Wales' CBE Cowbridge man collects award at Buckingham Palace

by TIM
CHAPMAN

A Cowbridge man, who for many years was the Chief Dental Officer for Wales, received his CBE last week at Buckingham Palace.

Dr Paul Langmaid was accompanied to the palace by his daughter Bryony, son Tim, and Tim's wife Anne.

Dr Langmaid told The GEM: "I received the CBE from the Queen.

"It was a fantastic experience to see the quality of the organisation of Buckingham Palace, and be able to go in through the gates, rather than look through the railings!

"There was a rehearsal, so there was no fear or trepidation when the award ceremony took place.

"Afterwards, we went for a family celebration in a restaurant on Marylebone High Street."



LEFT: Dr Paul Langmaid at Buckingham Palace after he had been presented with the CBE by the Queen.

1993, and in 1997, he became Chief Dental Officer for Wales.

Dr Langmaid, who originally graduated from Cardiff Dental School in 1975, received the CBE in the Welsh Honours List which was announced in June.

At the time he was keen to pay tribute to the Welsh dental school that set him on his way, pointing out:

"This award is a real testament to those who gave me the opportunity to study at Cardiff School of Dentistry, and who opened my eyes, not only to the theory, but the ethics of the profession.

"I've been overwhelmed by the support I've received from former teachers and colleagues, to whom I owe so much."

Dr Langmaid officially retired in October, but admits to

keeping his hand in with some "dental interests to expand on".

He was appointed Senior Dental Officer at the Welsh Office in



"Whew, that was hard work!"
Some of the pupils with their recycling bags.

Y Bont Faen pupils (and their parents) rise to a mega recycling challenge!

THE children of Y Bont Faen primary school in Cowbridge certainly have the bug for recycling anything in sight!

Once again, they asked parents to donate unwanted clothes, shoes and soft toys to their cause so that they could sell them to Bags2School to make money for their ECO committee.

The parents accepted the challenge to beat last year's target of 98 bags and 600kg and came up with 151 bags weighing in at 825kg!" spokeswoman Jayne Morris reported.

"The ECO and school council children certainly worked hard in shifting all those bags in an orderly manner with year-6 pupils helping to stack them in the van and the younger children forming a human

chain to pass them along!

"Thank you so much to everyone who helped us in our challenge and helped to save some more space in our landfill sites!

"A special thank you to the PTA who caringly weighed it all in the pouring rain! We will be having more next year – so hopefully we will once again make a difference to what goes to the landfill!"



Cyril's 'nice one' to Good Samaritans

A Cowbridge man has contacted The GEM to thank three people who offered their assistance when he collapsed on the school playing fields last week.

Mr Cyril Laws, aged 88, explained on: "I collapsed on November 10, and three men swiftly offered me help.

"One called an ambulance on his mobile. I was taken into the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, due to low blood pressure.

"I stayed in hospital from Wednesday until Friday. Unfortunately, I have been unable to trace the men who helped me and I would like to thank them."

Mr Laws worked for the Royal Mint, first in London and then Llantrisant before retiring in 1981.

He has had another brief visit to the hospital since last week for another checkup, but added: "I'm not too bad now, but have to take things carefully and tell people where I'm going if I take the dog out!"

NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE ROTARY CLUB

28 teams compete in annual quiz



ABOVE: David Pierce hands a cheque to Mrs Elgiva Thomas.

THE sixth annual quiz took place on November 13 at the Town Hall – one of Rotary's main fundraising events of the year.

Twenty-eight teams, made up from local organisations, families and friends, competed.

The winners were Cowbridge Record Society and the family of Elgiva Thomas.

Runners-up were the residents of St Hilary and

the Vale Photographic Society.

Total prize money of £500 was donated to four charities: Macmillan Cancer Support; NSPCC; South Wales Air Ambulance; Kidney Research UK.

Anyone interested in the activities of Rotary, should contact secretary, Richard Griffiths – richardandjudy01@btinternet.com or president David Pierce (tel 01446 773248).

Masquerade for charity

ON Saturday, November 27, The Stroke Association will be holding its first masquerade dinner at the Duke of Wellington pub's baronial hall, Cowbridge, promising "good food, great wine and enjoyable entertainment."

There will be an auction and raffle of prizes donated by local businesses, said Bridget Stadden, regional fundraising manager for Wales:

"We are hoping that you will join us to make sure the masquerade dinner is a huge success and ensure this becomes our flagship annual event.

"All proceeds from it will help us to raise awareness of stroke and continue to support those touched by stroke."

For more information, contact Bridget Stadden on 029 2052 4425, or Soren Evans on 029 2052 4417.

Art society's exhibition is at Old Hall

COWBRIDGE Art Society's annual exhibition and sale of paintings at Old Hall, High Street, will continue until Friday, December 10.

This evening (November 18) at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, the society welcomes back Shirley Ann Owen for a demonstration and practical.

ABOVE: Maurice and Brenda Dwek, member of the art society, at Cowbridge Old Hall for the annual exhibition, which continues until Friday, December 10.



(Photograph by MIKE WILCOCK).

COWBRIDGE BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club – Monday, November 8.

First, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler 62.34 per cent; second, Marion and David Stephenson 61.04; Amy Owen and Chris Morgan 60.39; fourth, Muriel Maslin and Joan Bird 59.42; Christine and John Evans 56.17; sixth, Sara Bartlett and Ian Duglinson 51.79.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club – Tuesday, November 9.

First, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey

64.38 per cent; second, Pam Higgs and Joyce Birmingham 63.75; third, Pat and Brian Swain 62.08; fourth, Anne Hughes and Sara Bartlett 58.75; fifth, Barbara and Colin Easterbrook 52.50; sixth, Irene Daniels and Marion Arnold 51.32.

The four Cowbridge and District Clubs have entered the 'Children in Need' competitions and it is hoped to print the results next week.

Many thanks to all bridge players who have contributed to this event for the last 10 years.

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Year-7 pupils get to try out a new sport with free squash lessons at Vale complex

THE Welsh Squash Association is providing free squash lessons for pupils in year-7 at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel and Sports Complex.

Sixteen lucky pupils were chosen to attend lessons for a five-week period in November.

The lessons attended so far have proved very successful and enjoyable for the pupils. All were under the guidance of Welsh coach Chris Rees and fellow coach Katie Bradbury, a pupil in year-12 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School. A big thank you to the Welsh Squash Association for their initiative.

The pupils were: Iwan Goodwin, James Revers, Jemima Batten, Daniel Foley, Sam Stuart, Martin Holder, George Roberts, Kaci Payne, Jenna Ritchie, Chris Gent, George Scanlan, Liam McNamara, Harri Thomas, Luke Tidley, Niall Routledge, Jay Jones, Kalil Aubin.

RUGBY

YEAR-8 played Bro Morgannwg in a league match, and won 33-17, with tries by Tom Trotman (3), Rian Thomas and Tom Lucas. Matthew Harper kicked four conversions.

Year-7 played Stanwell in a league match and lost 15-10, with tries by James Holder and James Nott.

Squad: Sean Davies, Michael Thomas, Daniel Bunney, Owain Leyshon, Duncan Ace, Tom Evans-Williams, Harry Hopkins, Otto Guwy, Joe Wyatt, Charlie Martin, James O'Donnell, Toff Patel, Harrison Stevens, Matthew Keating, Ben Terry, Henry Jones, Cai Evans.

SENIOR NETBALL

THE senior netball team headed to Llantwit for the first round of the President's Cup Tournament.

Cowbridge faced Bryn Hafren in the first game, who, having just beaten Llantwit 18-8, looked particularly strong. The Cowbridge girls started well, with Louise

Edwards and Bethan Moorcraft putting in some excellent interceptions.

However, despite their efforts, Bryn Hafren soared ahead and were winning 7-0 at half-time. A few changes in the second half saw Katie Bradbury at GA score the first two goals for Cowbridge, which lifted their spirits.

Lilly Crane controlled the game excellently from the centre but the Bryn Hafren girls, most of whom belong to a Barry Netball Club, were just too strong and the game finished 16-3.

Cowbridge had a much stronger start against Llantwit with Lucy Williams at GS and Katie Bradbury at GA linking together nicely to take the score to 5-4 at half-time.

Again, Lilly Crane and Molly Williams controlled the ball well in the centre court and Molly Lamb, Louise Edwards and Bethan Moorcraft worked tirelessly in defence to turn the ball over.

It was a very close and

exciting game but unfortunately Llantwit just had the edge in the closing stages and won 12-10.

Good luck to Bryn Hafren in the next round. Player of the match: Louise Edwards v Bryn Hafren; Molly Williams v Llantwit.

YEAR-8 AND 9

THE netball girls took on Bro Morgannwg in a home fixture.

The year-8 team got off to a strong start with Caitlin Jones at GK, Rebecca Thomas at GD and Hannah Lister-Sims at WD capitalising in defence and turning the ball over for the attack.

Megan McNamee at C and Ellie Davies at WA worked hard on the edge of the circle to ensure that Kim Jerwood at GA and Emily Davies at GS received accurate feeds to get them close to the post.

At half-time, Cowbridge were winning 5-1.

In the second half, Evie Williams came on at WA, Eve McGovern came on at GK and Sally Gamblin came onto WD.



ABOVE: The year-10 netball team

All of the substitutes settled well into the game and ensured that Cowbridge remained dominant and prevented Bro Morgannwg scoring for the rest of the game.

The score finished 8-1 to Cowbridge. An excellent team performance, well done!

The year-9 girls had an equally strong start with Lili Evans at C controlling the game well to ensure that interceptions made from Sarah Lewis at GK, Olivia Brown at GD and Eliza Smith at WD were effectively delivered to Amy O'Donnell at WA, Hannah Woodward at GA and Joanna Wilkins at GS.

Jo and Hannah worked hard to ensure they rotated in the circle to gain better shooting positions and as a result, Cowbridge were ahead 4-0 at half-time.

In the second half, Lydia Hitchings came on at GS and brought height to the shooting circle and Imogen Miller came on to GK and ensured the defence remained solid.

Despite an initial push from Bro Morgannwg in

the second half, where they quickly scored two goals, the Cowbridge girls remained calm and controlled and pulled together as a team to finish with a final win of 7-2. A solid team performance, well done! Thank you to Mrs Eynor for her much appreciated help with this fixture.

Player of the match: Year-8 – Kim Jerwood (GA); year-9 – Olivia Brown (GD).

HOCKEY

Year-9 Cowbridge hockey team played Brynteg in a tough match.

With Bryony Roberts on holiday and Izzy Eddy Williams playing with an injury, the team lacked strength against a very good Brynteg team.

Brynteg also had the advantage of their coach being a Welsh hockey international. The team were well-drilled and used the width of the pitch.

With the majority of the game played with Brynteg attacking, Cowbridge's defence

(Izzy Eddy Williams, Jonathan Harvey, Tom Josie Chivers, Megan Day-Davies, Max Ragan, Warburton, Owen Alexander, Ben Niamh Gallagher and goalkeeper Louis Jones, Kristian Jones, Olivia Atkins) the whole team played well, stopping more goals going in.

Brynteg scored a goal in each half, making the final score 2-0.

The attack of Hannah Woodward and Olivia Brown played well and when given the opportunity, showed their strength but could not get a goal passed the Brynteg's defence.

Player of the match: Izzy Eddy Williams.

SENIOR HOCKEY

THE senior hockey girls went out fighting after losing to Llanishen in the preliminary county hockey tournament as year-11 pupils last year.

Bethan Moorcraft, Louise Edwards, Molly Sander and Molly Williams were all missing due to a netball tournament. However, this did not upset the team and captain Katie Howson led them to a stylish win over Llanishen.

For much of the game it was equal, with both teams having to attack and defend. The final score was 1-0 to Cowbridge after Katie Howson and Molly Llewellyn set up a great attacking situation, with Jessica Hayes scoring the goal.

Llanishen also had a couple of shots on goal, one of which was brilliantly saved by Georgina Jackson and the other went wide.

A great game to take the team into the county hockey preliminary round next week.

YEAR-8 FOOTBALL

YEAR-8 played Llantwit Major and won 5-2, with goals by Daniel Oddy (2), Tom Lucas, Joe Davies, Joseph Treharne.

Squad: Oliver Pike, Rachel Bradshaw 13th, Katie Wynne 15th and Bethan Allman in 19th. This team came first. Year-13 pupils Holly Preece came 20th and Alyson Bater came 34th out of 45 finishers.



ABOVE: The year-9b netball team

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Llangan children enjoy their visit to Parliament

ON November 4, children from Llangan Primary school excitedly boarded a coach to take them to London for a tour of the Houses of Parliament.

"It was the first visit to London for many of the children and was the first time that anyone had visited the Houses of Parliament, even the teachers!" said deputy head, Steve Williams.

"Everybody was impressed by the beautiful building and decor. The history of the building was overwhelming. The children had a guided tour of Parliament and were amazed by how many people worked there, including the intense security and armed police!"

"The children were able to visit both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, both of which were in session, discussing the future of budget cuts for the armed forces, in particular St Athan."

er to leave the chamber to speak to the children. They asked Mr Cairns lots of searching questions – and they managed to make it seem like Prime Minister's question time!

"We left the Houses of Parliament absolutely exhausted but still managed to have a sight seeing tour of London, but not before being stopped by the police for Princess Anne to drive past us and wave!"

Pupils' Quotes

"My favourite part of the visit was when we walked into the House of Lords – the Queen's chair was made of shining gold." – Cariad, year-5.

"We really appreciated Alun Cairns coming out of the House of Commons to speak to us, I never knew that you had to have permission to leave the chamber." – Jordan, year-5.

"Watching the Lords and Baronesses debate in the House of Lords gave me confidence to speak in front of my friends." – Lewys, year-6.

SW

'Community raises £2,000 for youngster' Island's charity night for Tobias proves a triumph



'An amazing night' – that was the delighted verdict of organiser Tracey Smith, following a charity evening held at Barry Island on Saturday night for six-year-old Tobias Lunnon.

Tobias is the boy the people of Barry and the rest of the Vale have taken to their hearts, after he was paralysed in a road collision during the summer.

He has been in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge since August with his mother Fiona at his bedside.

Tracey told The GEM: "What an amazing night we had at Cafe Continental! Thanks to The GEM and Bro Radio more than 180 people turned up."

"The total raised during the evening was more than £2,000 – and so far the running total is more than £4,000."

"Every one of the 12 tables was sponsored and a whole host of companies and individuals provided prizes to be raffled."

"I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who either gave something or took part in the raffles and auctions."

Surf club's Christmas fundraiser

SOUTHERNDOWN
Surf Lifesaving Club will hold a Christmas-themed coffee morning on Sunday (November 21) from 10am-2pm at St Brides Church Hall, St Brides Major.

Old and new lifesaving stock will be on sale, together with crafts, cakes and mince pies!

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

"We had rugby tickets, a tour of the Millennium Stadium, House of Commons whisky, thanks to Alun Cairns our local MP, a bottle of Jack Daniel's, haircuts, facials, a Ronson lighter courtesy of George Watters of Giorgio's in High Street, and much, much more."

"The evening started at 8pm, but by 9.15pm it was chocoblock. We were having to warn people in the foyer to go in and get their seats."

"I want to thank Jenny and Stacy of Bro Radio for doing the disco."

"I also want to thank the band Brother Steve, who sang the song Miracles, and AJ of Bro Radio and Jamie Turner, who performed, too – they were all brilliant."

"We passed a bucket round and collected £100 from that."

Tracey and the pupils and parents of Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant in Barry, where Tobias was once a pupil, began fundraising as soon as the seriousness of the youngster's condition became apparent.

A laptop computer was delivered to Tobias so he could remain in contact with his young friends.

Fiona told The GEM recently: "He is fully aware of the prognosis and tells me 'there is always hope'. His bravery leaves me in awe."

Friends and supporters have continued to raise funds because they are aware that Tobias and his family may need assistance, both practical and financial, for years to come.

Fiona said she was overwhelmed by the generosity of local people.

"Thank you from both Tobias and myself to all the people who went along to support this event."

"Thank you" seems so inadequate when put next to the kindness and generosity of so many people.

"To all the companies and individuals who gave items to raffle, sorry I do not know you all by name, but please be aware that in my heart I am thanking you each individually."

"A big thank you, too, to Jill and Sarah at Cafe Jazz for decorating the tables and supporting the night."

"Of course, none of this would have been possible without Tracey Smith who has moved mountains to get everything organized, and for her truly amazing, loving work I can never thank her enough."

As Christmas approaches, Tobias is getting more and more excited.

Fiona said: "I have bought him some 'Nightmare before Christmas' tree decorations and he can't wait to put them on his tree."

"This week, a voice enhancer should be arriving for him, because although he can speak very well, sometimes he is a bit quiet. He is looking forward to being heard in the next ward!"

"The real reason that I decided to get it for him



As he was – Tobias at Pontin's earlier this year before he was paralysed.

is for when he talks to his friends at Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant on the computer, his voice is more audible."

Fiona also revealed: "At the moment I am finding out information about a 'breathing pace-maker' for the future."

"The idea is that it will stimulate his diaphragm to move, mimicking breathing, and hopefully allow us to remove some of the ventilation equipment for part of the day."

"Unfortunately, as far as I know it is not available yet in Britain."

If anyone would like to make a donation, speak to Tracey on 07827 943 623, or pop into Steve Nicholls Estate Agents at 15 High Street, Barry, CF62 7EB. Cheques should be made out to Tobias Lunnon.

Your views on BBC Wales?

THE BBC Trust, the governing body of the BBC, has recently launched its review of BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Cymru and would like to invite your readers to give us their views on the stations.

Please go to bbc.co.uk/bbctrust or contact Audience Council Wales at bbc.co.uk/Wales/acw.

You can also send a letter to BBC Trust Unit, 180 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ, or pick up a leaflet about the review at your local library.

Elan Closs Stephens, Cardiff
(BBC National Trustee for Wales)

Ode to bared souls (and bared bras!)

COLWINSTON AND LLYSWORNEY WI

THE time has flown, we're here again to recall the year gone by.

Another fun packed twelve months at the local WI.

December – time for parties – so we decked the

Village Hall
For our WI Christmas dinner the diet took a fall!

But we worked it off in January with Carol's Arabic fest.

We all joined in and shook our stuff, X-rated at the best!

In February Mr Jarvis brought kitchen gadgets galore!

With the Pinter and the Osokool and ice from Norway's shore.

March was the Italian evening, with pizza, salad and vino.

Quizzes and pass the parcel and the Denman draw is revealed – O!!

Oklahoma in April we had a good old sing! And then the fab 'Bra Lady' uplifted everything!

May and time for Cabaret – we thought

we'd have a go!
We bared our souls and bared our bras, our bosoms stole the show!

We also had a discussion on the labelling of food.

And the Spring Link Meeting proved that mingling is good!

June 'Evening All!' said PC Steve with tales of crime and more.

Of dogs and villains and traffic cops and the long arm of the law.

Operation Christmas Child was the topic for July.

We were so very touched by this we thought we'd have a try.

September brought the Fire Crew who really stuck out their neck.

And promised loads of freebies with a free home safety check.

October's theme was canapés – a huge crowd came that night.

Tempted by Jane's titbits and the promise of a bite!

And so back onto business and the AGM is here.

We'd like to invite you all to join in another WI year!

KJ

A few thoughts on the summer

A VERY wild and windy November

night did not deter some stalwart members of

Southerndown WI from attending their monthly meeting, to hear speaker

Sheena Crossley giving advice on attracting bees and butterflies to the garden.

Certain flowers, often wild ones and perennials, but also shrubs and weeds, will draw butterflies, moths and other insects at various times of the year.

Some colours are more popular with the wildlife but it is a delicate balance to attract the 'good' insects while discouraging those we do not want.

Birds enjoy berries in autumn and winter, but contrary to folklore a glut of berries does not necessarily portend a severe winter.

Sheena is well-known

in Wales for her broadcasting and writing and was a friendly, lively and informal speaker who also showed some excellent slides.

President Rhiannon Gaen conducted the business, pointing out the various events of interest in the next few months.

A group carol service will be at Colwinston on December 2. The seasonal meal is to take place in January at a venue to be decided.

The next monthly meeting is on December 9, a festive surprise, St Brides Major church hall at 7.15pm.

Members to bring a gift, value approximately £3.50 for a lucky dip.

BRENDA MEREDITH



COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Annual supper

THE annual fish and chip supper is on Saturday, November 27 at 6.30pm.

Older residents in Llangan, St Mary Hill and Ruthin will enjoy a free meal. Residents between the ages of 18-59 are also welcome at this event; the cost will be £3.60 for cod and chips, plus 20p extra for mushy peas or curry sauce.

Sorry, children will not be allowed. Live entertainment will be provided by an organist/comedian. Please call Rachel by November 22 on 01656 864547.

Lingerie party

THE young ladies of the area had a fun evening at the Ann Summers lingerie party, which took place in the Llangan community hall on November 13.

Congratulations to the hall committee for bringing unusual events to the community.

Hospice cash

YOUNG at Heart Club members agreed that instead of exchanging Christmas cards, the collective cash of £42 should be donated to Ty Hafan hospice.

Road repairs

WORK has been carried out on the road between 'Twhwyn', Llangan and the Pencoed-Pentre Meurig Road.

The new tarmac service is a change from trying to avoid the numerous potholes which have become a problem over the past years.

Elasto Lane

THIS area of Llangan is in urgent need of work to be carried out on the continuing flooding problem.

Also the growth of trees close to the travellers' site is becoming dangerous, with branches almost touching on either side of the road. It is several years since the trees have been cut back.

Community council

THE following items were discussed at the Llangan Community council meeting on Monday, November 15:

Trees hall committee now have 11 members. Chairperson is Lorraine West and secretary is Clare Bates. This year's children's Christmas party will take place in the Treoes community hall and will follow the Christmas carol service in Saron Chapel at 3pm on December 12.

Tennis court, Treoes: Application to be submitted for allotments. It follows a request by Mr Anstee of Treoes, for the purchase of a part of the former tennis court area, to enable access to fields at the rear of the former tennis court.

There was a unanimous decision by councillors not to offer to sell any part of the land, on the advice of 'One Voice Wales'.

Planning: Planning application re proposed riding school in the vicinity of Tchwyn, Llangan.

Councillors considered the view of those residents opposing the planning application and voted against the planning application.

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Victim Support award for a local councillor

RIGHT: Coun Anthony Hampton, cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, is presented with his certificate by HRH the Princess Royal at the Victim Support event.

VALE councillor Anthony Hampton, cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, has received an award for more than 10 years' service as a volunteer, at a Victim Support event in at St David's Hotel and Spa.

Along with other volunteers who have dedicated their time to helping victims and witnesses of crime in Wales, he received his award from Victim Support's president, Princess Anne.

The charity was set up 35 years ago, and is the largest victims' organisation in the world, contacting over 1.5 million people after a crime to offer help.

Coun Hampton said: "This was a wonderful event and I'm very grateful for this honour. Volunteers are unpaid and spend a great deal of time supporting victims of

crime, incidents of which can sometimes be horrendous.

"The visit by HRH Princess Anne to conduct the ceremony was a tremendous boost to the morale of the volunteers and highlights this event as a landmark occasion for the charity and all those involved."

Gaynor McKeown, Victim Support's regional manager for Wales, said: "The dedication these volunteers have shown over the past 10 years is amazing, and they really deserve this award. We rely on the dedication of our volunteers, and without them we wouldn't be able to give the same level of support for victims and witnesses in the aftermath of crime."

During the last year, volunteers in Wales contacted over 58,569 victims of crime in the community and more than 17,036 victims and witnesses attending court.

HISTORY LECTURE

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, December 3 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The Maud Gunter Memorial Lecture entitled 'The Chartist Movement in England and Wales - Origins and Outcomes' will be given by Don Gerrard (to be followed by mince pies and punch)



Mother of two was 'harassed' by her estranged husband

by AJ SICLUNA

A MOTHER of two was terrified when her husband, from whom she had parted, harassed her at her Maesteg home.

A major police operation was carried out to find 31-year-old Jason Anthony, a trainee paramedic, who was eventually found slumped in his car in Margam with his wrists cut.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Prosecutor David Thomas said he had left three suicide notes in the vehicle and later said:

"Things got out of hand."

Anthony of Briton Ferry, had admitted before Bridgend magistrates putting a person in fear of violence, and sending false messages for the purpose of causing alarm and had been committed to the crown court for sentence.

He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, suspended for two years and made subject to a two-year supervision order and to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

He was also made subject to an indefinite restraining order, preventing him contacting his wife and two of her work colleagues.

Recorder David Aubrey QC said: "Plainly, he attempted to kill himself. There has been a history of intense disturbance."

The Recorder added: "Unfortunately, situations such as yours occur from time to time. You behaved in a way that was wholly unacceptable and was utterly terrifying for your wife."

Mr Thomas said that Louise Anthony and the defendant had had a seven-year relationship which broke down. He could be aggressive towards her and she felt she was always "walking on eggshells".

The court was told that she also believed he used steroids.

During a three-month separation period, she would sometimes receive 20 text messages a day from him and he would sometimes go to her Maesteg home.

On September 24, he went there crying, saying he could not cope. The following day, she went to a social event and when she returned, he was on her mobile, angry, asking her where she had been.

Soon after, said Mr Thomas, he barged his way into the house saying he had been looking for her in two clubs.

At one point, he grabbed her mobile phone and ran off but he returned, banged the front door, and said she had lied to him.

She became terrified and dialled 999 when he started kicking the back door.

The police arrived and warned him to keep away.

Later that day, he followed Mrs Anthony in his car, punched her vehicle, damaged a wing mirror and took out a kitchen knife.

Mrs Anthony said: "I have never been so terrified".

She drove away but he forced her to stop.

Mr Thomas said: "The police took this incident very seriously and there was a major operation involving an intense search, which ended when they found Anthony in Margam."

He said that it had been revealed that Anthony had called two of his wife's work colleagues telling one: "I am going to turn your world upside down, and I am going to kick your head in."

To the other he said: "Your world is going to become a load of s..."

He was said to have a previous conviction for threatening behaviour.

His counsel, David Purnell, said he had been in custody for 44 days and had been involved in "a spectacular fall from grace."

He said the incident occurred because Anthony could not handle the breakdown of his relationship.

"Within seven days, his marriage unravelled and came to an end. He had always harboured hopes of a reconciliation."

Teenager Demi is a queen of the catwalk

RIGHT: Demi Mathews with fashionista Gok Wan, who hosted the awards ceremony.



TEENAGER Demi Mathews, from Barry beat off worldwide competition to scoop a top prize at the celebrity - studied Spectacle Wearer of the Year 2010 awards final in London.

Demi mingled with the stars at the annual modelling competition. Guests included host Gok Wan, Kelly Brook, Mylene Klass, Louis Spence, Lisa Snowden and Jodie Kidd. The judging panel featured Daily Telegraph fashion editor Hilary Alexander.

Demi said: "Inishing in third place was just the icing on the cake for me, as I never thought I'd make it so far."

"Everyone looked stunning on the catwalk and the whole event was just spectacular!"

"It's a story I'll be sharing with my friends about partying with the stars."

Demi won a weekend for two in London with £150 spending money and a Spectacle Wearer of the Year goody bag, including a £150 Specsavers eye wear voucher and products

from Andrew Barton Hair Salons and Simple Health and Beauty.

The competition was launched by Kelly Brook in May. Demi beat off stiff competition from more than 7,000 hopefuls to win one of 10 places, representing Wales in the international final at London's

Victoria and Albert Museum. Benny Glendinning from Northern Ireland was crowned overall winner.

A silent auction in aid of Kidscape, the awards' anti-bullying charity partner, helped to raise £20,000.

Roadworks report

Pontypridd Street - junction with Mount Pleasant - footway restriction.

Colcot Road, Barry - temporary traffic control.

Eagleswell Road between junction Monmouth Way and Leigh Close, Llantwit Major - road closure.

Unclassified lane from Llangan School to Llangan Village - road closure.

A48 at Sycamore Cross junction to Jct 34 M4 (at Pendoylan School) - road closure from November 22.

VALE of GLAMORGAN



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Temporary Road Closure Order, Section 16A

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

LLANTWIT ROAD, ST ATHAN

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS

TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will

Be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and Coastguard vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

SCHEDULE 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Tuesday 30 November 2010	The area to be closed is Llantwit Road, St. Athan between Rectory Road and its junction with Llantwit Gardens/Warlow Close.	16.00 - 21.00 Hrs

Signed diversions via The Square, Gileston Road and Glyndwr Road shall be in place and Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 18th day of November 2010

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

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Llantwit artist's exhibition will benefit Army charities

Llantwit Major artist Patricia Mears with Col David Cox.



ABOVE: Silures members who have contributed to the exhibition.



A NEW exhibition in Porthcawl, entitled 'Heroes and Poppies' by Llantwit Major artist Patricia Mears and her fellow-members of the Silures Art Group, is being held in aid of Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion.

At the opening, Patricia Mears said: "It is at times like this that we say thank you to the British Legion and the Help for Heroes charity for all the help and support it gives our brave servicemen and women and their families."

The exhibition was opened by Col David Cox.

Patricia said: "Heroes has been exhibited in several galleries but this exhibition is special, as it coincides with Remembrance Day and the Silures Art Group has been busy painting and making poppies that are included in the exhibition."

"I have never experienced a soldier's life so I can only paint as a soldier's mum. Both of my sons have been in the Army for several years and have served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania and Iraq."

"At the time of writing they are training for Afghanistan."

"Heroes includes a series of paintings based on the photographs taken by my sons, their friends and fellow soldiers, together with other work inspired by images in the press and on TV."

"The exhibition is for all our brave servicemen and women of all ranks and service, land, sea or air, front line action or in support."

"Those injured need our extra love and support. They have all given so much for our country and the opportunity to develop the Heroes exhibition seemed like a good idea."

"At present I intend to exhibit the original paintings and hope to sell mounted prints and cards of the paintings, selling the originals at a later date. All proceeds from sales will be donated to Help for Heroes and the British Legion."

The exhibition runs at the Silures Gallery, South Road, Porthcawl, at weekends, 11am-4.30pm. The artwork is also scheduled to be shown at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl in January/February 2011.



PHOTOGRAPHS by MANDY THOMAS

(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)

These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk



COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Netballers work and play in the sun of Marbella



The girls, about to go dolphin watching in Marbella.

THIRTY year-9 and 10 girls from Cowbridge Comprehensive School went to Marbella recently for a festival of netball.

The tour was organised by PE teacher Mrs Dickinson and teachers Miss Hale and Mrs Eynon also accompanied the girls.

The aim was to improve the girls' netball skills, and to experience playing against different schools.

The tour started very early on Monday morning at 5am at Cardiff Airport, arriving at Malaga airport and quickly transferring to the Atalaya Hotel in Marbella.

Brynteg School and Rougemont School (Cwmbran) also arrived at the same time!

After a buffet-style lunch where the girls indulged in the wide range of desserts available, they met their coach Linda for the first training session. The session was aimed at turning away from the defender when receiving the ball.

The girls worked hard during the session and were rewarded with some free time to either sunbathe or jump into the cold swimming pool! After another buffet-style dinner, the girls headed off to Puerto Banus to have a look at the yachts which were docked in the harbour.

The second day was packed full of netball training and games. The Cowbridge year-10 team played against the Rougemont year-10 team and the two year-9 teams played against the two Brynteg teams.

The year-10s played a match and disappointingly lost, due to Rougemont scoring quick goals in the first half.

At half-time it was 6-2 but in the second half it was a closer game, with Rougemont scoring three to Cowbridge's two for a 9-4 win.

Goal attack Mairi Boxall was voted 'girl of the game' by

Rougemont and goal defence Caitlin Allin was voted the teachers 'girl of the game'.

The year 9 A-team again had a good battle with Brynteg. Although Brynteg got a lead in the first half of 5-2, Cowbridge drew the second half 3-3. The final score was Brynteg 8, Cowbridge 5.

Goal defence Olivia Brown was voted 'girl of the game' by Brynteg and goal attack Hannah Woodward was voted 'girl of the game'.

Cowbridge B team had an excellent game against Brynteg where the two teams were evenly matched, finishing in a draw with two apiece. Wing defence Claire Davies was voted by teachers and Brynteg as 'girl of the game'.

On Wednesday, the girls trained again in the morning with a focus on shooting and defending. In the afternoon they were taken to Gibraltar for an afternoon of dolphin watching.

The girls were delighted when there were hundreds of dolphins swimming around the boat and showing us their back flips and how high they could jump the waves!

After the excursion, the girls went to a sports complex where a touring team from a private school in Kent were also playing. The school took the opportunity to play against them.

After a couple of days training, it was time to mix the year-9 and 10 teams up. The two teams from Kent proved to be outstanding netball players and won both the games 11-1 and 16-1.

Goal shooter Nancie Edwards and centre Annabel Curle were voted by Kent as 'girls of the game' and goalkeepers Georgia Lott and Bethan Sloane were voted teachers' 'girls of the game'.

A Gibraltar team then played all three teams from Cowbridge. The A team won 7-3 with goal attack Mairi Boxall voted as 'girl of the game'; the B team lost in a tight game 4-2 with centre Jordan Carpenter voted as 'girl of the

game' and the C team lost with wing attack Eliza Smith being voted the 'girl of the game'.

On the last day, some fun was to be had after a tough few days. Together with Brynteg, the girls were split into six teams and played each other in a tournament. After 15 matches, nothing could split the two teams, Banus and Jauan, with the same amount of overall points and, after the goals for and against were added up, both scored the same so they were awarded joint first place.

Linda, the coach for the week, praised Annabel Curle for the excellent interceptions she made during the tournament, Imogen Miller was singled out for her goal scoring from the edge of the shooting circle and Olivia Brown was praised for her sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Linda then gave each netball player a certificate and medal for their week's hard work and named Bethan Sloane as the netball player who developed the most over the four days. Bethan took on board everything that was taught and applied all the new skills in each game.

The teachers singled out three year-9 and year-10 pupils for overall development and achievement, with the year-9 awards going to Molly Rodgers, Clare Davies and Georgia Lott, and the year-10 awards going to Caitlin Allin, Carys Rhys Jones and Mairi Boxall.

Mrs Dickinson was also awarded gift vouchers for the Spa at The Village Hotel to treat herself for all of her hard work in organising the very successful and enjoyable tour.

After the presentations the girls enjoyed an afternoon of sunbathing and more pool action before heading home back to Cowbridge.

A special thank you to CS Boxall and Herbert R Thomas for their very generous sponsorship towards kit. Also, a further thank you to Jensen Sports for producing the wonderful kit.

'STANDING UP FOR WALES'... WITH A BUDGET TO BACK OUR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES

OVER the past few weeks, I have been preparing to deliver a budget for Wales, using the funding we have got available to protect the most vulnerable, to invest in schools and skills, to protect the NHS and support the economic recovery.

A tough call, with the budget for public services in Wales being cut by £1.8 billion over the next four years as a result of the UK Government's October Spending Review, following on from their £183 million cut in Wales announced in their June budget.

In my foreword to the Welsh budget, I explain that we have shaped our plans for future spending based on a set of agreed priorities, seeking to protect investment in front line services and to maintain our universal benefits – bus passes, free prescriptions, free school breakfasts, free school milk and free swimming – all of which provide opportunities to maximise health and well-being as well as providing jobs in the public and private sector.

We have listened to the experiences of those who work in our public services, their trade unions and the people who use these services, as well as the voluntary sector.

We have also consulted with the private sector as our key partners in leading Wales out of the recession.

This week, we debated the social impacts of the UK Government's Spending Review and considered the negative impact of the cuts to housing benefit in Wales.

Between April 2011 and April

2013, the changes to housing benefit will see the vast majority of local housing allowance recipients in Wales worse off, on average, by £9 per week, which may increase levels of homelessness according to housing charities like Shelter Cymru.

This will have an impact on local authorities in meeting their housing responsibilities, but the impact these changes will have on the poorest people in Wales is undoubted.

We have been working to help people move from benefits into work with pioneering schemes such as Want to Work and Genesis.

We have also seen the benefits of jobs created by the Future Jobs Fund, but this programme has been cancelled by the UK Government.

Last week, a recruitment agency *totaljobs.com* highlighted that in Wales on average there were 18 applicants for each job.

In protecting services, we are also protecting jobs and we cannot rely on the private sector to fill the gaps. We have consistently said the cuts are too deep and too fast and threaten the recovery as we seek to boost job opportunities.

It is hard to find an economist who doesn't agree with us as Princeton University's Nobel prize winner, Eric Maskin says:

"Making massive spending cuts at a time of relatively low economic activity is a mistake."

That advice is guiding us despite the challenges we face. For example, over the next four years Wales' budget will suffer over 40 per cent cuts to our Capital Budget (compared to a UK average cut of 29 per cent).

This is the budget which funds the building and refurbishment of our

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Assembly Minister for
Business and Budget)

schools, hospitals and housing programmes providing contracts and jobs in the construction sector.

For the past three years, we have been bringing forward our capital programme in these crucial policy areas to provide a fiscal stimulus for the economy, widely welcomed by local government and the CBI in Wales.

We are determined to keep that investment going, albeit with reductions and re-profiling of planned developments. We have a duty and responsibility to do so.

Budgets are tight and the demand on services are increasing but we are determined to continue to improve public services and to work in new ways that are both efficient and innovative.

We want to ensure that despite having less money, every single pound spent by Welsh public services makes a difference to the people

who rely on them.

Last week, Edwina Hart AM, the Health and Social Services Minister, told the Assembly that the health budget has increased significantly since 1999 and now stands at £6.3bn – over 40 per cent of our total budget.

With that significant investment, we now have more staff, more buildings and equipment and waiting times have fallen. She said that staff throughout the NHS are working hard to find more efficient ways of delivering services, and at the same time, improving the quality of care to patients.

We want to continue to deliver those improvements and continue to work for better health in Wales with a strong public health agenda.

That was a clear message on my budget tour – particularly for people with mental health ill-health and chronic health conditions.

Investing in schools and skills is key for the economy and for communities providing children and young people with hope for further education and jobs for their futures.

We are doing everything we can to narrow the equality gap, not widen it.

My message this week is that we have taken responsibility to stand up for the people of Wales with the funding, the powers, the levers we have, despite the cuts imposed on us by the UK Government.

Through adopting clear priorities, a renewed focus on efficiency and innovation, we have delivered a draft budget which continues to support Wales' economic recovery and seeks to continue to deliver better outcomes for the people and communities of Wales.

Slade Farm lamb 'best in Wales'

SLADE FARM Organics in the Vale of Glamorgan won the top prize in Wales for their lamb, at the True Taste Awards 2010 ceremony, held last week in Haverfordwest.

Peter and Rosamund Davies were "delighted" to collect their prize. Mr Davies said: "It is great to get third party recognition of the quality of our lamb, particularly at a time when we are preparing for the Christmas orders."

Ty Hafan winners

The following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D644.

● £2,000: 873222.
● The rollover, which now stands at £5,000, was not won this week.
● £10: 307354, 532642, 326612, 722347, 140689, 448733, 535140, 748263, 163071, 784835, 952691, 697248, 998391, 359400, 649382, 659826, 505358, 743689, 151411, 626698.
● £5: 896446, 827610, 329906, 529976, 331282, 329421, 130215, 790877.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE...

Dinas Powys pays tribute to the fallen comrades...



ABOVE: Members of the Royal British Legion.

THERE was a fine turn out for Remembrance Sunday at Dinas Powys, where many local organisations, youth groups and village residents paid their respects to those who had fallen in conflict since 1914.

Pictures by
**CHRIS
FRANKS AM**



ABOVE (left to right):
Dr Ian Johnson, Plaid's Vale Assembly candidate, Coun Margret Randall, Coun Chris Williams and Coun Keith Hatton outside St Peter's Church, in Dinas Powys.



ABOVE:
Dinas Powys Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Guides.



ABOVE: Bill Frampton, the master of ceremonies for Remembrance Day on the Twyn in the centre of Dinas Powys.

Penarth Mayor opens Tools with a Mission open day

THE Mayor of Penarth, Coun Paul Church and his wife Christine officially opened the TWAM Cymru Open Day recently, before discussing with volunteers the work of sorting, cleaning and refurbishing donated tools at the charity's centre in Bute Lane.

Coun Church expressed support for the work being done by Tools with a Mission.

The charity saves unwanted tools and equipment from being dumped, and assembles them into complete toolkits for car-

pentry, mechanics, plumbing, sewing and knitting to help people out of poverty.

John Haggitt, Chair of TWAM Cymru, has been collecting tools for TWAM for more than 10 years.

Outlining his vision for the centre in Penarth, he said: "We hope to develop as a hub for south and west Wales, able to support and grow the network of collectors beyond Cardiff and the Vale. We are encouraged by the support of the people of Penarth, and by the extra offers of help that we have received today."

Visitors to the event included the Chair of Cytûn, Revd John James; Revd Roger Grafton and others from Tabernacle Baptist Church, which has supported TWAM for many years; and children from the neighbouring Bute Cottage Nursery School.

If you have any tools or hand-dashery which you would like to donate to TWAM, or if you are interested in volunteering, please email twamcymru@gmail.com or telephone 029 2072690. The charity's website is www.twam.co.uk.



Parishioners gather for the rededication.

THE PARISH CARES FOR BARRY'S FIRST MEMORIAL

BARRY'S first war memorial, which stands in the grounds of St Helen's Church, was rededicated on Remembrance Sunday by parish priest, Canon Pat O'Gorman.

The War Memorial, erected in 1922, four years after the end of the Great War (1914-18), holds the names of those parishioners who gave their lives for freedom, and later the names of those who died in the Second World War were added.

For the past 90 years, this marble monument has stood on the corner of Wyndham Street and Court Road and was in need of extensive restoration.

Earlier this year, fundraising started with donations from parishioners.

The restoration has allowed a further inscription to be added, in memory of all those who have given their lives in conflicts since the end of the Second World War.

Parish priest Canon Pat said: "May this monument remind all who pass this way of those who served their country, even unto death."



War veteran, Terry Tobin, lays a wreath of Remembrance.
PHOTOGRAPHS by JOHN O'BEIRNE



Canon Pat O'Gorman blesses the restored Memorial.

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3' Jazz 2 Drawer Divan
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Electrically Adjustable Beds
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Was £459
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Was £649
NOW £379



Rest Assured 4' 6" Pocket Sprung 4 drawer divan
Was £699
NOW £399



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Double Solid Oak 'Riviera' Bedstead
Was £799
NOW £269



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£83.85



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Pink Bed c/w Mattress
Was £229
NOW £169



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Was £229
NOW £169



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Was £749
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Was £499
NOW £335



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Fireside Chairs
From only **£199**



Dundee Table + 2 Chairs
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Rufford Ext. Table + 4 Chairs
Was £379
NOW £249

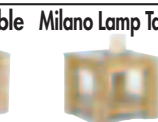
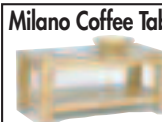


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Was £399
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Milano Corner TV Unit **Milano Nest of Tables**
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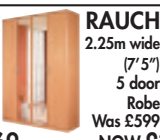
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NOW £399



RAUCH
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Vezalay all mirror sliding door Wardrobe
Was £849
NOW £449



RAUCH
2.5m wide (8' 3")
Imperial centre mirror sliding door wardrobe
Was £699
NOW £499

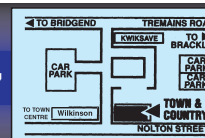


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SAD DEATH OF FORMER BRIDGEND TOWN MAYOR

OBITUARY

IT is with regret that we record the death of long-serving Conservative councillor, Gwynneth Rowe, a former mayor of Bridgend town.

Commenting on the sad news, the council leader, Coun David Unwin, said: "Gwynneth was a steadfast councillor over many years but never once put politics ahead of people.

"She was dedicated to helping anyone in need and was a kind and graceful lady in all respects.

"The passing of Gwynneth is a sad loss to the Bridgend and Laleston areas."

Mrs Rowe served on Bridgend Town Council over a period of more than 30 years, and was Mayor in 2004/05. She is survived by her husband Keith, a fellow town councillor.

She was also a long-serving member of Laleston Community Council, and served a term on Ogwr Borough Council.

Mrs Rowe was a State Registered Nurse and played an active part in many organisations,

notably the WRVS, YMCA, Citizens' advice Bureau, Evergreen hall, Bryntirion and Laleston Community Centre, and Laleston's Blandy Hall.

She was also a founder member of DASH in Nolton Street.

The funeral will take place tomorrow (November 19) at 12 noon in St Bridget's Church, St Bride's Major.



ABOVE: Mrs Gwynneth Rowe during her year in office as town mayor.

COMMUNITY NEWS ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

THE Noson Lawen held at the Fox and Hounds to welcome visiting teachers from Spain, Italy and Sweden was a resounding success showing a true Welsh welcome, with a traditional Cawl supper, followed by a three-part quiz and entertainment.

THE Ladies Thursday Club welcomed Mrs Doreen Gunning, who told of her work with impaired hearing people and of her recent visit to Buckingham Palace, to receive the MBE for her work in this field - a

most pleasurable evening.

WORK in All Saints church, Southerndown, is now complete (for the time being) and a service of thanksgiving was held to commemorate this with Cantorion Iltyd choir and soloist Clare Mathews.

The readings were in both Welsh and English and the singing of the Welsh hymns was a great pleasure, this was followed by a buffet supper, with the traditional iced fruit cake made and given by Mrs Evans of Ewenny. A most pleasurable evening.

THE funeral took

place on Friday, November 12 of Jim Driver, Lon-y-Eglwys, St Bride's Major at Coychurch Crematorium, attended by his family and all his friends who later met at The Golden Mile Inn, Corntown.

THE Mothers' Union will meet for their monthly Eucharist in All Saints church, Southerndown, on Friday, November 26 at 10am.

SATURDAY, November 27 is the date for the Christmas fayre to be held at the church hall at

10am. This will coincide with the normal tea/chat morning.

REMEMBRANCE The St Brides Major C/W School held their own Remembrance service on the 11th day of the 11th month.

The children conducted the service, together with the Venerable Philip Morris, who paid the Silent Tribute.

The Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Gavin Mathews.

A Remembrance service was held at St Bridget's Church on Sunday, November 14 when wreaths were laid on the Memorial altar. Wreaths were also laid on the Cenotaph in the village of St Brides Major, together with Remembrance Poppy crosses.

The Last Post and Reveille was sounded by bugler Roger Lewis of St Brides Major, who also played at the Bridgend Cenotaph on November 11.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre
(Telephone: 01656 725219)

Can you love Sasha?

THIS WEEK: Sasha is a lively and feisty little Terrier Crossbreed.

She gets on with other dogs, but she can be reactive towards them when she is on the lead, so she will need some further training to help with this.

She mixes well off the lead and can live with another dog. She is playful, very bright and has lots of energy.

She will need to attend training classes to provide her with some basic training and socialising.

She needs a home with someone who has previously owned Terrier types. She can live with older children,

Cheque presentation, poppy collection, and a Christmas grotto!

PICTURED by John Cosson (below) are the president of Porthcawl Lions Club, Ralph Anslow, and other members with Mrs Judith Price, the local representative of Breast Cancer Care Cymru, who received a cheque of £1,000 from the club, as a result of their coffee morning held in aid of the charity.

Porthcawl Lions assisted the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion with their poppy collection during the week and had their usual book sale over the weekend of November 13-14.

On Saturday, November 20, the Lions start their

charity raffle in the new Cooperative Store in Lias Road, which goes on until the draw on Saturday, November 27.

The first prize, once again, is the famous trolley dash through the store. This year, the main charity is Mencap, but local charities will also benefit.

On November 27, the Lions open their Christmas grotto in the YMCA, John Street, where every Saturday until December 18 between 10am and 4pm Father Christmas will be present.

Every child receives a quality present and the cost this year is maintained at last year's entrance fee which is £2.50p.

DAVID RICHARDS



ABOVE: All smiles at the cheque presentation.

Soroptimist chain gang!

THE picture opposite was taken at the Bridgend Mayor's Civic Service in Nolton Church, Bridgend.

The Mayor, Barbara Parish (centre) had invited her fellow Soroptimists, Joy Jay (right), president of Bridgend Soroptimists, and Carys Brown (left), newly-elected president of Soroptimist International Wales south region.

SMILE, LADIES!



ABOVE: The three Soroptimists line up for the camera.

Check on your home electricals!

TRADING Standards officers are offering Vale residents the chance to have electrical Christmas decorations tested for free, to ensure their festive celebrations don't go awry.

An expert will be on hand between 9am and 5pm today (Thursday November 18) in the Vale Council's Civic Offices in Barry to test decorations and answer questions.

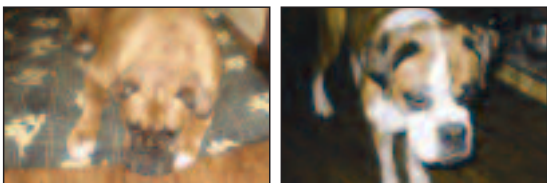


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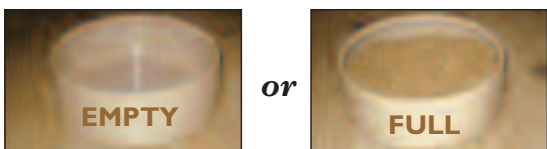
URGENT GEM URGENT

Winter Pet Food Appeal

More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Most pet owners treat their pets as part of the family and will even be including them in the family Christmas presents!

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.



Thank-you, from all the sheltered animals!

SERVICES BROUGHT TO YOUR DOOR

ARE you the sort of person who works full time and doesn't have enough hours in the day? Perhaps you are housebound or would prefer to shop from home.

The good news is that help is at hand!

All of the services on this page will come out to you, so now is the time to make a note of these suppliers and make your life a little easier.

Put your feet up and relax – these companies are happy to do the running round for you and will bring a first class service to your door!

GARDENING

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They will give you a free quotation and travel anywhere in the Vale and Bridgend area.

Tim said: "We will take all gardening waste away. We don't leave a mess and we will work in all weathers."

Tarzan's Gardens will do contract work and small domestic gardens. They can provide references.

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Estimates are free with no obligation. All requirements can be accommodated, including all types of valances and the current trend of eyelets on a pole.

Telephone Geoff on 01446 739174 or 07718 536838, for a quotation and see what he has to offer.



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We are very busy at this time of year, so plan ahead to make sure you enjoy the best programmes available, problem free!

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Jan has developed her business to offer contract and commercial cleanings. She offers a superb service at a reasonable price, whether you require a weekly or monthly cleaning service, a one-off clean or a full house or commercial property clean, or even your carpets cleaned!

Jan was often asked for a reliable handyman to do odd jobs. With this in mind, Jan has started a partnership with her partner Pete – Mr Multifix – who specialises in kitchen and bathroom installations.

Jan and Pete are now trading as Jan's Domestic Cleaning and Building Maintenance Services. Contact Jan on 07934 141582. No job too small!

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The confusion is ruthlessly spun to support brands, particularly with the supermarkets. Our Riverford meat, fruit and veg boxes contain all organic products up to 40 per cent cheaper than supermarket organics because we come directly to you from the farm. We do not use pesticides. Our products are certified to soil association organic standards.

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Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Clothes shops offer something different to the chain stores... so pay a visit to your local fashion business

THE Christmas party season is upon us and the ladies of Llantwit Major have plenty of choice about what to wear – thanks to the clothes shops in the town.

Stuart Sloan of Sloan

and Co said that evening wear was selling very well.

"It's all about bling and glitter this year. People need to cheer themselves up with all the doom and gloom that's around and there's nothing better to lift the spirit than a new outfit."

"We also have lots of sparkly accessories such as scarves and beads

which can give a new lease of life to an existing outfit."

Stuart has revamped his shop over recent months to give customers a better shopping experience and he has also changed his stock to provide more co-ordinated outfits.

"We now do complete ranges by companies like Saloos with

by **JAYNE ISAAC**

skirt, trousers, top and jacket to match if they wish," he said.

"We have also kept our prices down – nothing costs more than £30, and price is going to be important this year with people facing increasing living costs."

He is also finding that jewellery sales are increasing.

"We have expanded our range and of course, they make ideal gifts."

Tina Morgan of Rio ensures that the latest fashions are available with bright and beautiful showstopping collections by Disigual, Darling, Traffic People, Pomodoro, with Lovelinks Jewellery accessories for the finishing touches plus great handbags!

Glamorous outfits are available in Jamima Bridal where owner Janet Moisan has expanded her range of ball gowns.

"People are buying lots of party wear at the moment," she reported. "They are going to glitter in a big way and I also stock sparkly shoes which are selling well."

"I'm not sure where the parties will be, but people are getting geared up for them."

She said that traders were awaiting developments with The Precinct where it was hoped that some new lettings would take place to boost the range of shops in town.

"We are in a state of limbo, really. We have the Boverton Road Regeneration coming on stream in the new year and this should boost the image of the town."

The scheme, which has been talked about for 10 years, will see new pavements and parking areas created along the main road, plus facilities for disabled drivers.

"All the traders are on board with this and we should see some upturn to individual premises as well," she

stated. "It should give the town a lift."

Llantwit Major offers a compact shopping area around Poundfield, with its free car park, and Boverton Road, stretching along East Street.

The town has a lovely book shop, two florists, gift shops, a chocolate shop, three charity shops, several pharmacies and jewellery shops – all of which provide excellent ideas for Christmas presents.

Rainbow Plaza offers a wide range of goods, including toys and other gifts, and the food shops should be able to cater for festive food demands.

So, with a few minor omissions, it is largely possible to satisfy your Christmas shopping needs in Llantwit and avoid the larger town centres – where parking is an expensive nightmare and where shops are so crowded there's no pleasure in going into them.



ABOVE:
YUM! The Chocolate Box.

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Crafts, a market, lanterns, all lead to big lights switch-on!

LANTWIT goes to town at Christmas with a craft fayre, lantern parade and other activities to mark the switching on of the lights on December 4.

The illuminations committee, which is a collaboration between the chamber of trade and the town council, is running this event. Events

get under way at 3pm with entertainment on the stage in The Precinct.

During the day, there will be craft stalls and a farmers' market at The Precinct and along Boverton Road. A separate craft fayre also takes place at the Llantionian Hall.

Difficulties in attracting people down to the old part of the town have caused organisers to change plans this

year. There will be no events at the Town Hall or old school.

The fayre will be located in the car park next to the youth centre and the centre itself will host Father Christmas's grotto and also a lantern-making workshop.

At 5pm, the lantern parade will set off from the youth centre, along with Father Christmas, and this may well wind its way through the old part of the town and up East Street, before arriving at the Precinct for the switching on of the lights at 5.30pm.

The lights will be switched on by Miss Wales – Courtenay Hamilton of St Donat's, who has been taking part in Miss World out in China.

After this, entertainment will continue until 8pm and anyone interested in taking part should contact Janet Moisan on 07845 161643.

She said that they wanted more traditional, festive music this year up until the ceremony to set the tone for the event. Afterwards, there would be a chance for local rock bands and the like to take part.

The lights are costing £6,000 this year – £2,500 from the Vale and town councils and £1,000 from N-Power.



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Name

Address

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Councillor Ralph Austin, Town Mayor and all Town Councillors wish Llantwit Major residents and visitors a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2011.



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In the age of businesses going to the wall and companies closing down, there is one in our community that is expanding - Andy Cars of Llantwit Major is a business that is going from strength to strength.

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SO KIND TO NEW VALE RESIDENT

IHAVEN'T lived for very long in Cowbridge, just under two years, and am still trying to 'settle in'.

I find it very difficult to walk any great distance – even from my home to the small shop near the traffic lights at Eastgate, is an effort for me sometimes.

May 1, through your newspaper, thank the kind gentleman who had stopped by the traffic lights last Saturday, and after saying that he was going into Cowbridge, asked if he could give me a lift.

Even though I wasn't actually going into Cowbridge, but to the small local shop, he kindly took me there.

It helped me so very much, and I am so grateful to him, for his kindness.

This is not the first time a kind stranger has helped me in this way since I have come to live here.

Once I tripped and fell going to the bus stop, and a lady stopped her car and came over to help me up, and offered to take me to the doctor

if I felt that I needed to. Another time I was walking home with my shopping and got caught in a sudden heavy shower of rain.

A lady stopped her car and offered to take me home the rest of the way.

There have been several other times when people have stopped to help me home with my shopping, or give me a lift back to my house.

This kind of help one wouldn't get in a large town or city, but often in a small town such as Cowbridge.

It shows just how kind and helpful the people of Cowbridge are, even to a newcomer such as myself.

I would like to thank all of these people if I may, through your paper, for their kind help and thoughtfulness, which has helped me so very much, and which is making it so much easier for me, a 'relative' stranger, to settle in my new home here in Cowbridge...

Thanks again.
**Pat Caldwell,
Cowbridge**

Drivers to blame, NOT the roads!

IFEEL I have to write about the article in last week's GEM concerning the 'dangerous road' in Dinas Powys.

There are others too, like 'Five Mile Lane' – which cause these bad collisions. (I don't call them accidents, as they can be avoided).

The danger is poor driving, lack of observation and failing to abide by signs – especially speed limits.

Why should I and

other ratepayers pay for a speed camera, not only the camera but its use, as somebody has to deal with the information it collects?

No, make dangerous drivers who are caught take compulsory driving lessons (at their expense) to improve their skills, knowledge and understanding of driving a vehicle safely.

We then all benefit from saving lives and money.

**Anthony Atkins,
Sully**

'Cameras will stop the idiots'

IHOPE that Plaid regional AM Chris Franks, and local residents can persuade the Vale Council to install safety measures at the Swan Bend (The GEM, November 11).

I have empathy with the local residents who have to make critical decisions when attempting to pull out on to the main road, due to the volume of fast moving traffic around this bend.

I say I have empathy, because I also am a resident of the village. I have lived on Southra Park for more than 10 years and experienced similar problems to the Swan Bend residents.

It's a daily gamble when you try and pull out from Southra Park into the fast-moving traffic coming around 'our'

bend, the majority of vehicles travel at more than 40 mph and tailgate you if you have the nerve to pull out in front of them.

The residents of Sunnycroft also have the same problem and it's even worse for them, because they have to turn right across this fast moving traffic if they are heading for Cardiff.

We need speed cameras at both ends of Dinas Powys, not just Swan Bend.

Cameras would help stop these speeding idiots, so that sensible filtering can be achieved by residents.

I hope that Paul Daniels, Vale Council traffic management and casualty reduction officer, also has a look at our end of the village when he conducts his survey.

**Parri Tomos,
Dinas Powys**

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

MoD St Athan scheme: 'defence must come first'

IREAD Coun Rhodri Traherne's recent letter about the Defence Technical College at St Athan with interest.

So much that has been written and said about the DTC has been shaped by the blandishments of Metrix's PR advisors. Refreshingly, Coun Traherne's contribution appears not to reflect their input.

It is increasingly obvious that future defence will rely on highly-trained technician warriors, able to handle complex equipment in a predominantly cyber-space battlefield.

This seems almost beyond comprehension to old soldiers like myself, but it is the case and will therefore require constant technical training of the highest order.

The line between the roles of the three services will become less clearly defined. The need for the maintenance of highly technical skills will be made even more vital because of the currently planned run-down of trained personnel in all three Services (for instance Sea Harrier pilots).

The availability of trained battlefield technicians – even if the equipment they will work with is temporarily in short supply/not available – is therefore a prime requirement.

It follows that a training facility such as that envisaged, based on St Athan, is an essential priority, to keep all personnel at the leading edge of understanding and capability of the skills required of them.

To proceed down the PFI route would be a major error. PFIs may be fine for school-size projects, while even hospitals have proved a problem.

PFIs are a Treasury book-keeping fix for making the numbers look acceptable – not a solution to the nation's defence needs.

Nor should the St Athan project be seen in local advantage terms: trained technical warriors will be the future equivalent of 'boots on the ground'.

Without them, all the cutting-edge military equipment in the world will be of little value.

Therefore, the provision of such a training facility must be the first priority – taking first place even in front of the provision of new equipment.

It's a case of getting our defence priorities the right way round.

We are not, I believe, intending to provide aircraft carriers, aircraft and other hi-tech weapons under PFI agreements.

Nor should we allow the provision of this essential first priority training to be farmed out to contractors – British or foreign – on 30-year PFI contracts such as that envisioned by the Metrix project.

St Athan looks like an excellent site. It is not the only alternative.

Local jobs are not the priority, nor the incomes of local businesses. National defence is the one and only important factor in this case.

Let this facility, wherever it is sited, be free of all other considerations – political, commercial, whatever.

**Michael Day-Thompson,
Monkknash**

Park support is welcomed

IWOULD like to thank Coun Bronwen Brooks for her recent reply when she expressed her support regarding the neglected Treharne (Iolo) Park.

It is good to see that she is supporting a worthy cause. However, it is a shame that it appears to have taken a long time to realise that this park is in such decline and publicly declare support for it.

I wonder whether the nearing local election is having an impact on local councillors?

It seems to me that it is only at such times that the views of the traditional political parties seem to support those of the voting public and what is best for Barry.

It has always been in the run-up to an election that councillors appear to start to push for what is best for their vote.

Mayor says 'thank you'

ON behalf of the Royal British Legion and Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, I am writing to express my thanks (through your letters pages) to all those who

attended the Remembrance Sunday service at the war memorial, the parade and the service in Holy Cross Church.

In particular, I wish to commend the many young people who were on parade, as this ensured that the whole

community was participating in the Act of Remembrance.

For my part, the parade, procession and service was a very moving occasion and one which I hope Cowbridge will maintain for all time.

**Coun LE Taylor
(Town Mayor)**

Labour has 'shot itself in the foot'

IWRITE with reference to Doreen Hayman's letter (last week's GEM) concerning Pamela Drake's letter (the councillor she has "never heard of") about Coun Richard Bertin.

I'm sure Mrs Hayman, like many others, is wise enough to realise that the letter signed by Ms Drake was on behalf of the local Labour Party, which now realises that it has shot itself in the foot. Having forced Coun Bertin's resignation, it now realises the damage and reper-

cussions this may have on future election results.

It's a pity a little foresight was not used, instead of hindsight; Coun Bertin is a decent, hardworking councillor who, unfortunately, is no longer a member of the Labour Party.

However, I'm sure Labour's loss will be welcomed by another group, possibly Focus-BARRY, a group of independents who will be fielding candidates at the next local elections. (Name and address supplied).

PACT meetings in the Vale

GIBBONS DOWN CORNERSWELL PACT. Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, Barry, November 29, at 11.30am.
DYFAN PACT. Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road, Barry, November 22, at 6pm.
ST BRIDES PACT. St Brides Church Hall, December 1, at 6pm.
PENARTH LEISURE CENTRE. December 2, at 7pm.
DINAS POWYS SURGERY. Caerleon Road, December 1, from 4pm-7pm.
AUGUSTINE'S PACT. Windsor Public House (Back Room), December 3, at 7pm.

PLANNING IN BRIDGEND

Mr N Thomas – 12 Mary Street, Portcawl – Hoarding on side of building.
Primesight Ltd – 1 King Edward Street, Blaengarw – Internally illuminated wall mounted display unit.
Mr J Devereux – 9 Swn yr Adar, Penyfai – Fell 1 x lime tree.
Mr Anthony Wickham – Site adjacent to Three Horse Shoes, Lamb Row, South Cornelly – Pair of semi-detached 2 bed houses and detached 2 bed bungalow on site of former public house.
Mr N Thomas – 12 Mary Street, Portcawl – Ground floor and first floor rear extension.
Mrs D Goule – Southdown, 84 Beach Road, Portcawl – Replace/extend existing external balcony with new balcony.
Miss Anne Barrett – 136 Ffordd y Parc, Litchard – The Old Post House, Commercial Street, Nantmoe – Change of use from commercial to domestic (residential).
Mr A Jay – 38 Wernyls Road, Penyfai – New front porch/shower room.
Mr C R and Mrs C Handley – 20 Newbridge Gardens, Bridgend – Two storey side extension and rear conservatory.
Mr Mark Thomas – 47 Metcalfe Street, Maesteg – Detached garage to rear garden.
Mr G Jarvis – 31 Glan y Nant, Tondur – Proposed log cabin.
Mr Ramsahye – 2 Heather Close, Sarn – Tiled roof storm porch to front elevation.
Mrs S Williams-Holder – 24 Ffordd Haearn, Tondur – PVC conservatory to rear.
Mr P Lang – 3 Heol yr Enfys, Cefn Glas – Side extension.
Mr A Butler – 9 Alma Road, Maesteg – Two storey extension to rear of property for kitchen and bedroom.
Mr D Thomas – 24 Cherry Tree Avenue, Portcawl – Kitchen/diner extension to rear of property.

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Present day conflicts galvanise public support for Remembrance Day parades around the Vale

LLANTWIT MAJOR was one of many towns and villages in the Vale to report a large turn-out for Remembrance Day on Sunday.

Inevitably, public awareness of casualties in Afghanistan was identified as an obvious factor, with organisers everywhere commenting on the increase in numbers.

In a sombre and dignified ceremony, the residents of Llantwit Major joined with the military personnel based at MoD St Athan to pay a heartfelt tribute to the casualties of war.



ABOVE:

Deputy Lord Lieutenant Heather March lays the first wreath.



Young people take to the streets of Cowbridge to make Remembrance Sunday very special

THERE was a fine turnout for Remembrance Sunday in Cowbridge, with young people's organisations prominent in the parade and at the service in Holy Cross Church.

In fact, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Len Taylor, made special mention of this in a letter to The GEM (See page 16).

Also prominent in the parade were numerous local organisations, many marching with their ceremonial banners.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK



Crowds line the street as Cowbridge pays its tribute to all who made the ultimate sacrifice



RHOOSE REMEMBERS THEM

THE villages of Rhose, Penmark and Porthkerry observed Remembrance Day with a procession, which started at Rhose Post Office and continued through the village to the War Memorial, at the Stewart Road Community Centre.

There, the Rev David Treharne conducted the service, which began with the reading of the rolls of honour of the parishes of Penmark and

Porthkerry. The Exhortation was spoken and the Last Post sounded.

A two-minute silence was observed, followed by Reveille.

Wreaths were laid before the War Memorial and the national anthems were sung. The service continued inside the community centre with prayers, readings and hymns, accompanied on the piano by Mrs Heather Jenkins.



Ambulance hero saved man from burning car near Dinas Powys – just seconds before it exploded!



LEFT (left to right): Paramedic Phil Thomas; Julie Philips of award sponsors Physio-Control; Grant Elgar (pilot); Angela Hughes (Wales Air Ambulance chair); and Barry paramedic Gareth Williams.

RIGHT: Paramedic Dafydd Dennis with Baroness Browning and Stuart Fletcher, the Welsh Ambulance Service chair.

AN off-duty ambulance hero has been presented with a major national award in a special ceremony at the House of Lords after he dragged an injured man from a burning car near Dinas Powys moments before it exploded.

Ambulance technician Dafydd Dennis received the prestigious Ambulance Services Institute Award in the 'ambulance technician' category.

The 27-year-old from Cardiff had already received a special bravery award from the Welsh Ambulance Service for his courageous conduct in the incident.

The ASI ceremony is traditionally held at the Palace of Westminster and the Welsh Ambulance Services took no fewer than four of the 12 categories, with other winners in the Paramedic, Air Ambulance Team and Military awards, while two women from Swansea received the public spirited award after being nominated by the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Former Royal Marine Dafydd was presented with his award by Baroness Browning of

Whimble, at a glittering ceremony also attended by Welsh Ambulance Services chairman Stuart Fletcher.

Mr Fletcher said: "To take five of the 12 awards is an extraordinary achievement and shows the calibre of the staff we have serving the people of Wales."

"The bravery of staff like Dafydd has been quite outstanding, and the baroness said she felt very humbled by their courage and sense of duty."

"The awards are highly sought after and there were a high number of nominations from ambulance services from across the UK so this has been a remarkable achievement and one we can be very proud of."

Dafydd was keen to play down his outstanding bravery and said: "It was a magical occasion and one I was fortunate to celebrate with so many colleagues."

"However, there were people receiving awards for acts of bravery far greater than the incident for which I was honoured. I was humbled to be among such courageous people, to be honest."

"The whole occasion was a fantastic experience and the House of Lords as a setting made it all seem very special."

Dafydd was driving home in the early hours

of a Wednesday morning in April after a 10-hour shift when he came upon debris on the Barry to Dinas Powys road where a car had gone off the road and down a bank near a bridge.

He said: "I stopped and spotted a glow on the right hand side which turned out to be a vehicle on fire."

"I pulled my car over to warn other traffic and then I scrambled down to the overturned vehicle, which was on fire, and I saw there was someone inside."

"I called 999 and asked for fire, police and ambulance and then pulled open the door and dragged a man out."

"A couple of other people had arrived at the scene and they shone my torch down so I could see what I was doing."

"The car was right on the edge of the river bank and after I had pulled the driver out through the window and up the bank, he seemed to indicate there could be someone else in the car."

"I went back down and had to submerge myself in the river to check the passenger side, but it was clear."

"It was lucky for him I was on that road because I'd forgotten it was closed further on. If I'd remembered I'd have gone home to Cardiff by

a different route."

Police Constable Russell Barnett, who attended the scene, said: "Despite the vehicle being ablaze and the obvious risks to himself Dafydd climbed down the embankment and dragged the driver from the vehicle and up the embankment to safety."

"Having spent 15 years as a firefighter and seven as a police officer I have been privileged to witness numerous acts of courage."

"However, this incident stands out as one of the most exceptional acts of heroism I have been a witness to."

Alun Harris, acting locality ambulance officer for the Vale, said:



ABOVE: The Air Ambulance Team of the Year – paramedic Gareth Williams, pilot Grant Elgar and paramedic Phil Thomas.



How a young boy's seedling (20 years ago) became this year's Penarth Christmas tree



ABOVE: Ed's Christmas tree at the centre of Penarth, which is ready to be lit up as part of the seasonal festivities.

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Christmas tree centrepiece of Penarth's festive celebrations is thanks to a 12-year-old schoolboy, who planted a seedling in his bedroom 20 years ago.

That schoolboy, Ed Hayes, is now a 32-year-old accountant, who works in Cardiff, but lives in Penarth.

He explained: "The Penarth Christmas tree was once a seedling in a pot a few inches high on my bedroom window sill."

"At the time, I was living with my parents in Cyncoed."

"Eventually, the seedling grew and became too big for the bedroom and we replanted in the garden outside."

"For years, nothing happened. It was a bit of a joke and remained at three feet high for what seemed forever."

"Then one summer, I came back from university and it was suddenly taller than me. It must have been biding its time."

"Every time I came back after that, it seemed to double in height."

"Eventually, it grew to a height greater than the apex of the roof of my parents' house, and began to dominate the garden."

It was at that point that Ed and his parents, Gareth and Sara, began to think that the tree had overstayed its welcome.

Inspiration struck, and the family decided

to donate it to the Penarth Christmas festivities.

Accordingly, the tree was removed from its 20-year home in Cyncoed and erected on the main roundabout in Penarth town centre, where it will be lit up over Christmas.

Ed added: "On Sunday night my parents and I took a drive round it and it looked really nice – although it appeared smaller in an open space."

Penarth Town Council, Penarth Police and Penarth Youth Project are continuing their partnership in staging a Christmas parade and switching-on event that will take place during the afternoon and early evening of Sunday, November 28.

The parade will leave West House at 2pm and the theme is 'A Magical Christmas in Penarth'.

Coun Anthony Ernest said: "We want to encourage individuals, families, groups, schools, churches, businesses and organisations to dress up as their favourite characters and join in the parade."

"The aim is to create a showcase spectacular to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas festivities and to bring camaraderie and a sense of fun to the town."

Lots of entertainment is promised throughout the day, including Father Christmas making an appearance on a specially-designed float.

Rhoose gets ready for Christmas

'IT'S ALL ABOUT QUALITY OF LIFE!'

by JAYNE ISAAC

THE Vale of Glamorgan is an area that offers its residents a great choice of environment – whether it be within the towns, villages or picturesque hamlets that are scattered around.

One such community located right on the coast, but with a distinctively rural flavour, is Rhoose. If you travel from north Wales to south Wales, it is not possible to go any further south than Rhoose without getting your feet wet in the Bristol Channel!

This popular village is the most southerly in Wales – and Rhoose Point is the southernmost tip of the south Wales coastline.

Rhoose itself has grown from the small, sleepy hamlet it was before the last war to a vibrant community of more than 5,000 people. New housing estates have sprung up over the past 40 years which have brought an influx of new people into the area. Many were initially attracted by jobs at the Aberthaw cement works and power station, which are still local employers, and also the airport.

In more recent times, the British Airways maintenance depot at the airport has brought skilled, well-paid jobs to the area, while the airport itself also

requires staff providing a variety of services for passengers.

The village has also seen the arrival of several hotels which provide overnight accommodation for people due to fly out on holiday. These, too, have created new jobs.

One of the county borough councillors for Rhoose, Jeff James, has lived there since he was a child and has observed the dramatic changes at first hand: "Rhoose is an area that's in big demand. People are moving in and there's also a demand from developers for the land around the airport – some for housing, some for business use," he pointed out.

"Rhoose now has its own railway station for the first time since the days of Dr Beeching and people

can commute easily to Cardiff in one direction and Bridgend in the other. By 2014, we will have a half-hourly service to relieve pressure at peak commuting times.

"Rhoose has a lot going for it! Our village school is one of the best in Wales, scoring seven top gradings at its recent inspection. We only have one empty shop in the village and over the years, they have provided residents with many of their needs."

The shopping choice in Rhoose is about to be boosted by the imminent opening of the new Tesco store.

Rhoose also has two community halls, a bowls club and a tennis club, plus a number of pubs which all offer excellent meals.

The area also has the Fontygary Bay Caravan Park, which has a swimming pool, sports and social facilities as well as first rate restaurants.

Coun James added: "Rhoose offers a unique blend of coastal and country living with many employment opportunities.

"It is a wonderful place to live, with an excellent school, a range of shops, and suppliers who all punch above their weight. It's all about quality of life and Rhoose offers that to everyone," Coun James added proudly.

F-club heroines!

ONCE again, the Fontygary 'F-Club' girls were galvanised into action – to raise money for Help for Heroes.

The band of 14 ladies, led by Lorraine Loveridge, sold raffle tickets, had table top sales and managed to raise in excess of £1,500.

This was duly passed to Tim McIlveen (the MD of Fontygary) who instigated the St Mary Church 'expedition' to Helmand Province.

The residents have built a military-style bunker housing two treadmills and Tim is now badgering the staff, friends and family to get sponsorship and to actively participate in the expedition.

The treadmills will be running for the next five weeks and there will be someone on them 24/7!

Fontygary Park is very proud to be involved with helping to raise money for this worthwhile cause and we have many service heroes (based at MoD St Athan) using our pool.

As one of our owners has commented: "It is a humbling experience

watching these young service personnel – they are a credit to the Armed Forces and we should all be extremely grateful for their contribution against the war on terror."

Any donations will be gratefully received, and should be sent c/o Jennie Flanagan, Fontygary Leisure Park, Fontygary Road, Rhoose, CF62 3ZT. (Cheques should be made out to 'The Helmand Account').

For further information, please contact Tim on 01446 710386.

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Cowbridge students' badminton success

THE South Wales Schools Top School Badminton Tournament was held at the Welsh Institute of Sport Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

The school entered two teams for both boys and girls in this under-16 tournament. A total of 28 boys schools and 20 girls schools took part.

The Girls B team was made up of Romy Killick, Naduni Jayasinghe, Rachel Bradshaw, Amy Oliver and Sophie Gallagher.

Against Gwynllyw School, Pontypool A team they won 3-2; against Crickhowell School A team they won 4-1; but against St Albans, Pontypool, A team lost 3-2.

In the round robin group, the team finished second with only the winner going through.

The A team was made up of Jess Oliver, Jordan Carpenter, Lois Palmer and Nia Patel.

In each game there are two singles played by No 1 and No 2 seed, with 3 and 4 playing doubles. No 1 then plays with 3, and No 2 plays with 4 to make up the doubles for a total of five games.

Against Gwynllyw B team Pontypool, the school won 5-0, and against Llanharri A team, they also won 5-0.

They beat Y Pant School, Talbot Green, 3-2 in a very close game with wins for Jordan Carpenter 21-15 in the No 2 singles, Lois Palmer and Nia Patel (21-3 doubles) and Nia and Jordan 21-7 to win



The boys A team.



The girls A team.

the final games.

Against Ysgol Y Gwyr Gower in the final, it was again a very close game, winning 3-2. Jess Oliver was unlucky to lose her singles to a county player 21-16, and with partner Lois Palmer in the doubles 21-18. Jordan won her singles 21-12. Lois and Nia won their doubles 21-10 and Jordan and Nia 21-13 in their doubles.

This brought the title

to Cowbridge Comprehensive School for the first time for many years. An excellent day's work by all 9 girls involved. They will represent the school at the All Welsh Schools Final in Welshpool in February.

The Boys B team, Tim Pickin, George Brown, Isaac Richmond and David Sami, played in a group of three. For all boys this was their first experience of playing at this level.

Against Crickhowell School, Powys, they lost 5-0, but against Queen Elizabeth School, Carmarthen, they won 3-2.

There were wins for George Brown (singles 21-14); Isaac Richmond and David Sami (21-12 doubles); George Brown and David Sami (21-10 doubles).

Unfortunately, only the group winners went through to the quarter-finals, that being Crickhowell.

LEFT: The girls B team

BOTTOM: Three of the boys B team



Vale charity calls for help to make dream project a reality

A SMALL charity based in the Vale is looking for support next Monday when it has the chance to win £50,000 that could make a dream project a reality.

The Intersensory Club has applied to the peoplesmillions fund, and will use the funds to buy a wheelchair accessible boat that could take up to 10 wheelchairs for wheelchair users, their carers and families, out on trips around Cardiff Bay.

The founder and treasurer of the club, Cliff Hayes, told The GEM: "Our project is going head to head with another on Monday, November 22, on ITV Wales Tonight, and we obviously hope to win the votes."

"Our charity have provided all-terrain beach wheelchairs at Barry Island beach, changing benches at Cardiff International Pool, wheelchair/bicycle tandems plus other specialist items for people with learning disabilities."

He said that the charity is run by a dedicated committee of four, all volunteers, with a number of helpers.

They are competing



ABOVE: The charity was able to supply all-terrain wheelchairs at Barry Island.

on the TV programme against a west Wales-based charity.

He said: "We try and keep costs down, with no paid staff or offices, so that all the funds can be used to buy items that improve the quality of life for people with learning disabilities."

"If you go on www.peoplesmillions.org.uk and click on Wales, you will see full details of the projects and of how you can support us."

For further information on the charity, contact Cliff Hayes on 01446 420533.



The charity believes that a similar (but bigger) boat will open up access to Cardiff Bay.

You can help Ty Hafan create a family Christmas to remember

TY HAFAN is appealing to local people to help "create a Christmas to remember" for families who could be spending their last one all together.

The Sully hospice is also asking people to leave a Christmas Star message of support to the families and all the stars received will be on display.

REMEMBERING KIMBERLEY

Ty Hafan opened over Christmas for the first time in 2008 to provide care and support to a family whose daughter became extremely ill just a couple of weeks before Christmas.

A spokeswoman recalled: "Kimberley Jenkins had severe cerebral palsy and relied on her family for the 24/7 care she needed. In the summer of 2008 she had caught a bacterial infection which would have been serious for a healthy person, but because of her vulnerability, it just took hold and she began to deteriorate quickly."

"The family were referred to Ty Hafan and Kimberley and her mum Maria went to stay there, with other members of the family visiting when they could."

Although her daughter was so very ill, Maria remembers that despite

everything, 2008 was their best-ever Christmas.

"I woke up that morning to find the staff had sneaked in during the night to put stockings up for Kimberley and me. They cooked us Christmas dinner – the first time I'd had one cooked for me since I could remember."

"In the afternoon, Joe came in with our other kids and the staff had

even gone and bought a little gift for each of them."

"We all stayed together that afternoon, just like any other Christmas. We played games and opened presents – I even had a glass of wine! "Kimberley died just two weeks later, but I always have the special memory of that last Christmas we spent all together."

As a result, Ty Hafan

decided to stay open again for other families in a similar situation; but it comes at a cost which, with the public's help, can make a world of difference.

Visit www.tyhafanstar.org or ring 029 2067 2060 to make a donation, and leave a message of support for families making the very most of Christmas 2010.

Kitchen recycling scheme rolled out across the Vale

The Vale Council is set to roll out its kerbside kitchen waste recycling service to the remainder of the Vale, bringing a further 36,000 homes on board by March 2011.

Coun Geoffrey Cox, cabinet member for visible and building services, said: "Soon every household in the Vale will benefit from a weekly kerbside kitchen waste recycling collection."

"To date around 20,000 households participate in the scheme, with a further 20,000 homes in Barry being the first to benefit from the roll-out during December and January, closely followed by the remainder of the Vale."

Knap and Garden Suburb area in Barry has already benefited from the service and the remaining areas of Barry will soon receive information about the scheme so they're ready to start in December. Remaining areas will receive information early next year."

The kitchen waste recycling kit comprises of both a kerbside and kitchen caddy, complete with a roll of biodegradable cornstarch bags with which to line the kitchen caddy.

Residents can add food items such as beans, pasta, rice, dairy products, fruit and vegetables, meat and fish (including bones and shells), tea bags and coffee grinds – to name but a few – to their collections.

Each week the coun-

cil's recycling crews will collect the deposited biodegradable cornstarch bags from the kerbside caddies and take them to Penllyne Farm in Cowbridge (Cowbridge Compost) where the material will be recycled through 'in-vessel' composting.

The process comes full circle on the last Saturday morning of every month when residents are able to collect free compost, created by the Vale's waste, for their gardens.

To arrange an appointment to collect compost from Penllyne Farm, Cowbridge, residents can telephone 07973 894773 or 01446 772600; people need to take a suitable container.

A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Bassett businesses provide that personal touch on Holton Road's 'retail mile'

PEOPLE often look at national chains as the backbone of the British high street, but a glance along Barry's 'retail mile' Holton Road and another more eclectic picture emerges.

At the Bassett end of Holton Road, family retailers, with familiar faces hold sway.

JPL Sound - The Barry Music Shop is about to complete 10 years serving people not only from the town and the Vale, but as far afield as the valleys, Bridgend and Cardiff.

In fact, it is something of a Vale institution because it regularly provides stages, sound systems and lighting for a host of events such as the bonfire night fireworks in Barry, Cowbridge's reindeer parade, Penarth's Christmas festival, the Vale of Glamorgan Show and Remembrance Sunday services.

The owner John Lewis said: "This year

we're also providing the Welsh Folk Museum with a bit of zing for their Christmas celebrations by lighting up the buildings with different colours!"

John and his assistant Sam Osborne have established a strong reputation in supplying high quality products to people with expert advice.

John explained: "Sometimes at this time of year people are tempted to buy a guitar as a Christmas present from a supermarket or store catalogue, but often what they get is unbranded and can lead to faults. We get people in after Christmas asking us to solve the problems!"

"We supply reliable, branded makes at more affordable prices than elsewhere that are ideal for a youngster who wants to learn the guitar."

A guitar and full pack start for as little as £149 and can make a great present for a youngster.

JPL Sound provides comprehensive stocks of many accessories



ABOVE: John and Sam offer expert advice on all things musical at JPL Sound - The Barry Music Centre.

too.

"Whether it is guitar strings, audio and AV leads, we offer the best local selection in the Vale," said John.

The shop can also offer help on ordering drum kits, music books, sound equipment, mics and amplifiers.

John is certain as to the reason the shop has built up a loyal following and lasted a decade.

"It is the knowledge we have, and the quality services. Another thing that surprises

people is that if people order an item before 2pm we can get it delivered as early as the next day!"

Finally, John and Sam will help people with their 'musical' equipment problems where some larger retailers are less keen.

Across the road from JPL Sound, another business has in three short years become one of the town's most popular cafés.

The Full Monty, as its name suggests, has everything you'd want in a café, inexpensive breakfasts and meals, friendly staff and lots of banter among the customers!

Deryn Smith, who had years of catering experience behind her, opened The Full Monty in September 2007, and it quickly became a

of jokes and comments.

"In the early mornings we attract contractors working in the town, council workers starting their day and people wanting their breakfast before they visit other local businesses."

The café opens at 8am each morning and its headline breakfast is - you've guessed it - The Full Monty, three bacon, three sausages, two black puddings, egg, hash browns, mushrooms, beans, tomato, toast and tea!

For those who want something a little lighter there are tasty, scaled down versions!

Deryn also caters for youngsters with a Mini Monty for children.

The café has a bright, light, modern décor which is welcoming, and is also kitted out with full disabled facilities including a ramp.

George's No1 is full of good cheer!



George and Tony at George's No 1 gentlemen's barbers are inviting customers to pop along for a festive drink and a mince pie this Christmas.

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Tel: 01446 732377

Santa Claus on Holton Road!

CHILDREN have the chance to meet Santa Claus at Ruckley's store in Holton Road this Christmas.

The store, which stocks nursery and baby products, will have 'Santa in his Grotto' from December 18-20 (10.30am - 4.30pm).

Owner Faye Ruckley warned parents: "Make

sure you bring a camera to capture your little one's delight on the day.

"The visit to the grotto is £3.99 which includes a present."

The breadth of Ruckley's products is something to behold and covers all eventualities with sledges already in stock at £14.99 and nativity costumes arriving soon.

Still Images expands its photography service

STILL IMAGES has relocated to a new studio at 50 Holton Road, Barry.

After a 12 month period of trading in our old studio we felt that we needed to expand to a larger premises that would give customers

more room for family shoots, and more variety of backdrops to suit a variety of shoots from children, couples, families as well as model portfolios.

The studio is centrally heated and spacious. Customers find it very comfortable to come in and discuss their portrait needs in a wedding package, that starts from

£599.

We attract customers that want a modern professional photograph and know they are getting that at an affordable price.

Please call in for a chat or give us a call. We are more than willing to help with your photography needs.

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Barry Celebrates Christmas 2010



Light up the Square and the all new Christmas Lantern Parade

King Square and Central Park, Barry
Friday 26 November, 6.30pm to 9pm

This free fun packed event includes live music, street entertainers and performance pieces from The Candle. The Christmas Lights will be turned on at 8pm.

The night will end with a Christmas Lantern Parade along Holton Rd starting on King Square at 8.30pm. The parade is open to everyone... create your own lantern and join in the fun. Children should always be accompanied by an adult.

Lantern making workshops are free and will take place on King Square, Barry on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st November from 10am to 3pm.

Christmas Sphere

King Square, Barry, Saturday 4 December, 7pm to 9pm
Don't miss this magical event... The Dream Engine will be performing their acrobatic Heliosphere Show live on the Square.

"Let it Snow"

Central Park, Barry, Saturday 11 December, 10am to 4pm
For one day only Central Park will become a festive arena complete with snow, ice sculpting, music, Play Development's "Workshops in Wonderland" and street entertainers. Santa will also be visiting the park with his sleigh and reindeer from 10am to 3pm.

For more information please call 01446 704737 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/events



A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Barry town centre will be witness to some great Christmas entertainment!

BARRY town centre is celebrating Christmas this year with three exciting events.

The festive programme kicks off on Friday, November 26, with 'Light up the Square' which will include the all-new Christmas Lantern Parade.

This free, fun-packed event based at King Square and Central

Park will start at 6.30pm and features street entertainers and live music from the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, Vale of Glamorgan Band, and All That Jazz.

Central Park will play host to The Candle - an eight-metre high transparent candle, complete with its own beautiful acrobatic performance!

The Christmas Lights will be turned on at 8pm.

The evening will end with a Christmas Lantern Parade along Holton Road, starting in King Square at 8.30pm.

The Lantern Parade is open to everyone and will be led by SWICA's troupe of fantastically body-painted and colourful dragon dancers, who will be lit by thousands of sparkling fairy lights.

Musical accompaniment will be provided by Wonderbrass, a 20-strong funky brass band.

Free lantern making workshops will take place in Central Park, Barry on Saturday and Sunday, November 20-21 from 10am-4pm.

On Saturday, December 4, don't miss The Dream Engine, who will be performing their 'Magical Heliosphere Show' live on King Square. Spiralling and spinning to music, a weightless acrobat will be suspended beneath a large helium balloon, giving the illusion of flying above the square.

The Gandini Jugglers will also be performing their atmospheric 'Glow Show'.

Performances will start at 7pm and run until 9pm.

For one day only on Saturday, December 11, 'Let it Snow' will take place at Central Park, Barry.

From 10am-4pm, the park will become a festive arena complete with snow, snowmen, an igloo, ice sculpting, Christmas music, play development's 'workshops in Wonderland' and street entertainers.

Santa will also be at the park with his reindeer and sleigh from 10am-3pm.

For more information, please call 01446 704737 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/events

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La Cucina is a café and eatery that evokes the continental atmosphere of Paris or

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Breakfasts range between £2.95 and £3.95. A filtered coffee is £1.45, a latte £1.80 and a cappuccino £1.90.

Paninis are a lunchtime favourite with a choice of more

than 20 different sorts of fillings. They are served with a side salad, crisps and coleslaw and run out at £4.20.

But there's also a wide variety of meals – lasagne, chilli con carne, spaghetti bolognese, meat balls – it's your choice.

And what do the staff advise for a decadent dessert? Hot chocolate, marshmallows and cream!

Of course, there are other ways of spoiling yourself, and for sheer relaxation, Tan y Hyde at 46 Holton Road takes some beating.

This tanning and beauty salon is owned by sisters Joanna Spear and Tracy Kemp, and offers a huge range of beauty services, including waxing, facials, nail care, body treatments and make-up sessions.

But at this time of



year, surely a Swedish massage, to relieve tension and stress, is worth the investment of £17 for half an hour, or £25 for the full hour?

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areas of weakness in the body, aromatherapy, deep massage with oils, and Indian head massage.

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ABOVE:
La Cucina promises people a warm welcome on those chilly Christmas shopping expeditions.

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ABOVE:
Tan y Hyde – an oasis of relaxation amid the Christmas rush.

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the uni-brow to the office do! Men also look good with an air-brush tan and a whole range of treatments are available from skincare to sports massage.

Party season aside, Bodywise offers a range of treatments from specialised therapists with a wealth of experience.

We have a specialist in sports massage, a holistic therapist specialising in reflexology, aromatherapy and Indian head massage.

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Local pet shop where animal lovers receive that specialist advice



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OPTIONS FOR
THE PET IN
YOUR LIFE!**

LEFT:
The staff at Pets
'R' Us can provide
the specialist
knowledge that
local animal lovers
appreciate.

FOR local animal lovers, Pets 'R' Us is a popular destination with a large array of products, and is situated just off Holton Road on Regent Street.

Steve Lane, the owner, said: "The staff are enthusiastic and qualified in giving good pet nutrition advice. All own animals themselves, whether it is a dog, a cat, or a reptile."

"In fact, the store is the official stockist for a number of premium dog foods, such as Royal Canin, James Wellbeloved, Burns, Proplan and Hills Science Plan."

"We also offer a dog care service with grooming, starting from £15."

There is no shortage

of Christmas presents in the store, either for the owner or for a dog or cat – treats, toys, coats, and even dog Christmas cards!

Steve also deals in some of the more exotic pets, and sells tropical and coldwater fish, snakes, lizards, hamsters, and tortoises, along with the necessary food supplies.

For local pet owners, who want the best advice on how to look after their pet, Pets 'R' Us on Regent Street is the place to visit.

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Manageress Jaydene Vaughan of HQ2 welcomes customers this Christmas.

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

RIGHT:
People should take any selection boxes into Lyndsay Ellis at Park Funeral Directors on Tynewydd Road, opposite the County Library.



Ty Hafan Christmas selection box appeal is under way

PARK Funeral Directors, situated on Tynewydd Road opposite the County Library in King Square, has launched its 'Christmas Selection Box Appeal' on behalf of the youngsters at Ty Hafan.

Director Lyndsay Ellis explained: "We're asking people to bring chocolate selection boxes into the branch and we will take them down to Ty

Hafan for the children and their families.

"I have done this appeal before during my time at AG Adams & Son, and have decided to carry on.

"Last time, we collected 400 selection boxes thanks to the community."

Lyndsay is organising a special memorial service on Saturday, November 27 at King Square at 2pm for people who want to remember loved-ones.

"Everybody is welcome. Christmas is often a particularly difficult time if people have been bereaved, and it is a way of the community providing support and comfort.

"There will be carols and the service will be conducted by the Rev Clive Jones of Salem Baptist Church, Barry."

Park Funeral Directors opened its doors only in May, but it has already become

an established part of the town centre. Its current window display is a Remembrance tribute.

In the past, there have been displays to highlight the 'eco-friendly funeral' and 'colourful coffins'.

Lyndsay added: "One woman who came past recently told me:

'You're taking the taboo out of funerals!'"

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
Temporary Road Closure
Order, Section 16A
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

KING'S SQUARE AND HOLTON ROAD BARRY CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND LANTERN PARADE

FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2010
Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Vale of Glamorgan Council has made an Order under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:

WHEREAS the Vale of Glamorgan Council as Highway Authority is satisfied that traffic on the streets or parts thereof as listed in column 2 of the Schedule should on 26th November 2010 be restricted to enable the holding of a relevant event, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, HEREBY ORDERS AND DIRECTS that the following regulations shall be observed:

The streets or parts thereof as specified in the Schedule shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles, with the exception of those vehicles that are permitted to participate in the event and emergency services (including coastguard vehicles) between the hours specified in column 3 of the Schedule.

The penalty for infringement of this regulation is a fine not exceeding £1,000.

SCHEDULE 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 26 November 2010	1/ The area to be closed is Holton Road Barry from its junction with Ty-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llantwit Street. 2/ Ty-Newydd Road, between its junctions with Wyndham Street and Holton Road, Barry, between the hours of 3/ Holton Road, between its junctions with Ty-Newydd Road and Buttrills Road, Barry, between the hours of	18.00 – 21.00 hrs 20.00 – 21.00 hrs 20.00 – 21.00 hrs

A diversion via Ty-Newydd Road (between Wyndham Street and Gladstone Road), Gladstone Road and Buttrills Road will be available. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

It is proposed that it will only be necessary to close roads 2&3 for the shortest period possible considered appropriate, between the above times, in the interests of road safety.

Dated this 18th day of November 2010

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

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VALE of GLAMORGAN
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
Temporary Road Closure
Order, Section 16A
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

KING'S SQUARE, BARRY CHRISTMAS 'SPHERE' EVENT

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 2010

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. For the prevention of obstruction etc

WHEREAS the Vale of Glamorgan Council as Highway Authority is satisfied that traffic on the streets or parts thereof as listed in column 2 of the Schedule should on 4th December 2010 be restricted to enable the holding of a relevant event, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services vehicles and resident permit holders between the hours specified in column 3 of the schedule.

The penalty for infringement of this regulation is a fine not exceeding £1,000.

SCHEDULE 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Saturday 4 December 2010	The area to be closed is Holton Road Barry from its junction with y-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llantwit Street.	18.00 – 21.00

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place

Dated this 18th day of November 2010

M. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Save Our Cinema group presents petition to the AMs at the Welsh Assembly

by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE:

At the Senedd, members of the Save our Cinema Association, Paul Sutton and John Moore, presented their petition to the chair of the petition committee Christine Chapman AM. Vale AM Jane Hutt and regional AM Andrew RT Davies, who is a member of the committee, were also in attendance.

THE Save Our Cinema Association presented its petition to the Welsh Assembly on November 10, arguing that the Theatre Royal should be preserved for local entertainment – rather than used as an ExtraCare facility.

Hafod Care plans to develop the Theatre Royal site into 42 flats and communal facilities for older people, but SOCA is adamant it should become a cinema and local arts venue.

Paul Sutton, who presented the group's petition to Assembly Members, told The GEM: "It was an encouraging day and a great opportunity to continue the fight to keep the Theatre Royal.

"We are hoping the committee will look on the petition positively and the building will be saved.

"We want to thank our Assembly Member Jane Hutt for all her support since the announcement of the closure of the cinema."

Andrew RT Davies AM, a member of the petitions committee, said: "We met SOCA members on the steps of the Senedd and as a member of the committee, I will naturally be looking closely at this issue in the near future.

"I share the view that Barry needs and deserves to have a cultural and art hub; a venue that can serve not only as an entertainment centre, but also as a focus for the whole community."

Mr Sutton said that a meeting of the petitions committee was due to take place earlier this week, and he was hoping SOCA's presentation may be discussed by them then.

A month ago, The GEM reported Hafod Care announcing that it had exchanged contracts on the Theatre Royal site.

The chairman of SOCA Mr Bob

Armstrong said he believed the contracts were "informal", and that people should not believe an ExtraCare development was inevitable.

"We believe it is an informal agreement, which will enable Hafod Care to walk away without losing too much money, if they are unable to get permission in terms of demolition, planning or change of use.

"The impression given is that it is a done and dusted deal – it is not," he insisted.

Robert Wathen, the managing director of Hafod Care, told The GEM: "We can confirm that contracts have been exchanged on the purchase of the Theatre Royal site, and that the necessary funding is in place to develop extra care accommodation for the elderly.

"Our plans for the development are currently going through the approval process and we are confident that we can turn this disused site into a much-needed facility for Barry.

"If planning is granted, the facility will be a real asset to the town. It will be the first ever ExtraCare housing development in the Vale, bringing first class independent living accommodation and support for the area's elderly residents.

"We understand that some local groups are keen to retain the building but as it is in a very poor state of repair and represents a very real health and safety risk, we have no choice but to demolish the existing structure."

He added: "We are very conscious that the building holds many memories for Barry's residents and so intend to replace it with one which retains the grandeur and presence of the Theatre Royal but which also embraces the current design principles which require us to tailor the environment for the needs of its intended residents."

Don't bother looking up at the skies ... You'll find this alien invasion film to be a complete waste of time!

IN this age of excessive marketing and PR, it is very rare that you walk into a cinema not really knowing what to expect from the film you're about to see.

The last film to subvert the 'more is less' approach was *Cloverfield*, a film that gave nothing away about what you were likely to see on screen, and it made for an even more enjoyable time.

It is an approach the makers of *Skyline* have obviously taken to their hearts, the film landing on screens with very little known about it.

Set in Los Angeles, strange lights descend on the city, drawing people out of their homes; but the lights soon turn out to be an extra-terrestrial force whose intention is simple – wipe out humanity...

A word to the wise – if you are considering going to the cinema to watch *Skyline*, then consider whether you have seen these films first. *Independence Day*? *War of the Worlds* (the Spielberg version)? *The Matrix*? *Cloverfield*?

If you have four out of four, congratulations – not only do you have pretty good cinematic tastes, but you can bypass *Skyline* altogether, a useless amalgamation of the mentioned four films that comes absolutely nowhere near to being anything approaching the quality of them.

Aliens are obviously undergoing a bit of comeback, with *Monsters*, a film about the aftermath of alien invasion, and *World Invasion: Battle LA*, which 'ahem' deals with an alien invasion in Los Angeles, both set for cinemas over the next few months.

But hopefully those films will be far more entertaining, visceral and less nonsensical than *Skyline*.

A little knowledge can supposedly be a dangerous thing, but had I the knowledge that I was going to be watching a film directed by the brothers Strause, then I wouldn't have allowed my excitement to build having seen the pretty effective trailer.

The brothers are the brains (a word used in the loosest connotation possible) behind the schlocky but awful *Alien vs Predator*, *Requiem*, a film that made Paul W Anderson's first installment look like *Citizen Kane* with alien creatures.

Given their background in computer generated effects, it's hardly

a shock that the film both relies heavily on them, and the actual effects themselves are very good indeed – but that is really as much praise as can be offered the pair.

Certainly they make a good fist of building the tension, the film kicking straight into action and not looking back, but while the brothers have a film that is visually strong, there is nothing to propel the visuals in terms of characters and story.

They may know their way around an action sequence (even if said sequences are lifted from *Independence Day* and *Cloverfield*), and deserve credit for making a film that has all the visual wallop of a high-budget movie, despite being made on a low-budget.

In fact, it could be argued that the brothers are ill-served by a script that lacks originality and, while trying to ape the 'ordinary people in the eye of disaster' films that it so obviously wants to be, forgot what makes those films so exciting and gripping.

The film never really places the characters inside the situation, aside from a few moments when they attempt to leave the apartment block they are in. Much of the action comes from them watching things unfold through the telescope or the window – hardly the most exciting way of seeing what's happening.

Similarly, the characters that we are left with aren't able to mine the tensions that would give more dramatic heft.

The key ingredient with screenplays such as this is to focus on the

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

human element as much as the threat outside, and the tension that comes from the group dynamic – save for one scene, there is precious little tension from the characters to see.

It strikes as being a concept searching for a narrative, and screenwriters Joshua Cordes and Liam O'Donnell show their inexperience by failing to build on the premise.

As expected, the dialogue clunks and the characterisation is base at best, but it does hold a small degree of B-movie charm – at least until the conclusion where it seems that, with no real way of ending the film, they simply picked up the first draft idea they had and wrote it down.

If the film's visuals are incredibly good, then the level of acting is particularly poor. The cast, none of whom are big names, don't do themselves any favours, with turns ranging from average to useless (though, in

fairness, some get so little screentime it's hard for them to really make any impact).

In the lead, Eric Balfour may be recognisable from *24* or the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* remake, but it isn't difficult to see why he isn't more of a noted actor, seemingly picked mainly for looks over acting ability, something that is prevalent throughout the rest of the cast.

Scottie Thompson, Brittany Daniel, Crystal Reid – all attractive actresses, all showing the acting range of a wooden stool.

The two most notable turns, from *Scrubs* Donald Faison and *Dexter*'s David Zayas, are not only the most polished, but also the only two that really resonate – and that's partly because you know them from their respective TV series.

Despite wanting to be like *Cloverfield* et al, *Skyline* doesn't work because it gets the most basic fundamentals wrong – characters that you don't care about, and the peril they find themselves in not resonating – and while a visual spectacle, underneath there is very little going on.

VERDICT – Less of a thrill ride, and more of a bore with pleasing visuals. *Skyline* lacks originality, strong performances and an ability to really grip. While the Strause brothers have a keen eye for visuals, they don't have anything else, and the end product is one that on its own terms is poor, but when compared to other films with this genre, it is downright useless. One to avoid.

Brooke's rebranding as La Luna is a case of 'mission accomplished'

by TIM CHAPMAN

WHEN Craig Brookes opened 'Brookes Restaurant' 11 years ago, he created a fine dining experience that captured the imagination of people throughout south Wales

'Brookes', based at Talbot Green, became a by-word for culinary excellence.

Now though, Craig, the owner and chef, who trained at eateries in exotic locations such as Bermuda and Monte Carlo, has rebranded the restaurant – its new name is 'La Luna'.

Simplicity has been the hallmark of the rebranding, with a single menu replacing three individual menus for food, drinks and desserts.

The aim is an affordable brasserie experience that encourages greater frequency of visits than 'fine dining', which tends to attract people for anniversaries and special occasions.

La Luna has a chic, modern interior which is complemented by subdued lighting providing an intimate atmosphere.

My wife is a lover of white wines, her particular favourite being a Pino Grigio. She chose a fine Montecelli from Italy, which was crisp with a fresh lemony flavour and was £15.95 a bottle (or £4.30 a glass).

Also for special occasions, there was a comprehensive range of sparkling wines and champagnes ranging



The transformation of Brooke's to La Luna in Talbot Green is complete – and diners are endorsing the rebranding.

from Prosecco from Italy at £19.95 a bottle, or if you wanted to push the boat out, a Bollinger Special Cuvee from France at £49 a bottle.

I prefer red wine and a Reserve Mouton St Emilion, a full bodied ruby red Bordeaux at £20.95 a bottle, caught my eye.

The starters ranged from a surprisingly affordable £3.95 to £5.95. My wife plumped for the goat's cheese baked in a crisp pastry parcel with a spiced onion chutney and beetroot salad.

It really brought out the flavour of the goat's cheese which was smooth and creamy and was accompanied by an apple and mustard grain dressing which had a real kick to it.

I chose the moules mariniere, which was cooked in a white wine, garlic, shallot and parsley cream sauce with char-grilled focaccia. This was a triumph!

The mussels were deliciously tender and had really absorbed the flavour of the garlic and shallots.

We are both lovers of

seafood so for the main course my wife selected the seared tuna steak with samphire, crab and home dried tomatoes, and lemon and basil beurre blanc. It was cooked to perfection, and she said it was the best tuna she had had in years.

My choice was pan fried seabass with a warm crab nicoise, in a Spanish style cilantro green sauce. It was tender and melted on the tongue.

For side dishes, my wife had the buttered new potatoes, I went for the hand-cut chunky chips, and we were both tempted by the braised red cabbage with apple and bacon.

Both fish dishes and accompanying side orders were a delight.

The dessert menu included chocolate fondue, Eton mess, tiramisu, bread and butter pudding, crème brulee, iced white chocolate parfait and a cheeseboard that comprised Welsh and continental cheeses with chutney, sun dried tomatoes, biscuits and bread. All the desserts were

£4.95; the cheeseboard was £5.95. My wife succumbed to a strawberry Eton mess. As a confirmed chocoholic, I valiantly negotiated the chocolate fondue – the warm chocolate held in a cast iron style pot with strawberries, raspberries, and pineapples chunks – to dip – on a fondue tray.

Both the chocolate and the fruit combined well, although care had to be taken with the odd splash of chocolate on the tablecloth!

A starter, a main course with two side orders, and a dessert, roughly works out at £30 a person so for two people £60 is realistic – with the cost of drinks on top.

Kate Turner, the manager, and her waitresses were very attentive and the service was excellent.

For La Luna, Talbot Green's new affordable brasserie experience, and Craig Brookes' latest incarnation, the high quality is there and in the case of Brooke's rebranding, it appears to be a case of 'mission accomplished'.

What's on, where and when in your area...

MP's advice

surgeries

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance this Friday, November 19 at 2.30pm-3.45pm at Romilly Primary School, Barry.

As part of the celebrations for the turning on of the High Street Christmas lights, the office will be open from 4pm-5.30pm at 29 High Street, Barry.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

Charity quiz

THERE'S a special edition Children in Need quiz night this Friday, November 19, at the St Athan's King's Cup.

Everyone welcome from 9pm. All proceeds will go to Pudsey's favourite good causes.

Village quiz

A QUIZ is being held in St Hilary village hall tomorrow, (Friday,

November 19) at 7.30pm.

Light supper and bar. Tickets, available from Elaine Robins (01446 773309) or Carolyn Lyons (774890).

Dinas Powys autumn fayre

THE parish of St Andrew Major is holding its autumn fayre on Saturday, November 20 at the Parish and Lee Halls, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

The fayre will be opened by Father Christmas at 1pm and children can then meet Santa in his magical grotto. Other activities include games and face painting.

Visitors can purchase high quality, handmade gifts, cards and festive decorations, and other goods.

Parishioners from St Michael's Church, Michaelston-le-Pit will sell fresh produce. There will also be Fairtrade goods and refreshments in the Lee Hall.

Rector of St Andrew Major, Rev D Huw Rhydderch, said: "All proceeds from the autumn fayre go to charity and this is the main charitable fundraising activity of the parish."

Penarth fayre

THE parish of Penarth and Llandough hold their Christmas fayre this Saturday, November 20 in the Paget Rooms, Penarth, from 10am-12noon.

Stalls: Homemade cakes, preserves, savouries, gifts for Christmas, cards, books toys, bottle stall, parcels and an amazing raffle.

Father Christmas will be making a visit, so bring along the children. Entry free. Admission, adults 50p including coffee/tea.

Further details from Ann Lush (029 2070 3547).

Mozart Requiem

ON Sunday, November 21 at 7.30pm in St Augustine's Church, Penarth Cantemus Chamber choir Wales, directed by Robert Court, will perform Mozart's Requiem.

This is the final in a series of three Mozart concerts by Cantemus and St Augustine's Chamber Orchestra.

Cantemus is joined by soloists Carleen Ebbs (soprano), Miranda Westcott (mezzo soprano), Robin Burton (tenor) and the winner of

the 2010 Kathleen Ferrier singing prize Njabulo Madlala (baritone).

Tickets (£16 full price; £12 concessions) available on 029 2061 9436, or at the door. Further details by email from rgcourt@ntl-world.com

Potato Street Players

FIVE people are invited to a remote country house to be auditioned for a new reality show on television. Why were they selected? What is the connection between them?

Find out at Wick and Monkknash Village Hall on November 24, 25, 26 at 7.45pm for the Potato Street Players' production of *Spygame* by Bettina Manktelow.

Tickets, priced at £5 are available from Edna Black-Gerrard (01656 890382), Winnie Davies (01446 890320), Wick Village Shop or on the door.

Storyteller's Garden

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society will meet on November 24 at 7.30pm in Llantonian Hall,

Llantwit Major.

In a departure from the usual format, they welcome society member and storyteller Kate Hibbert, who will entertain with gardening tales.

Admission to the evening and seasonal refreshments free. Members and prospective members warmly welcomed.

Books signing

GEM columnist Brian Lee will be signing copies of *Yesterday's Cardiff*, *Cardiff's Vanishing Docklands*, *Cardiff Voices*, *Butetown & Cardiff Docks*, *Central Cardiff*, *Cathays*, *Maindy*, *Gabalfa & Mynachdy* and *Cardiff Remembered* at Waterstone's, The Hayes, Cardiff, at 6pm-8pm on November 25.

Porthcawl fayre

ALL Saint's Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, will be holding their pre-Christmas fayre on Saturday, November 27 at 11.30am.

Lunches and light refreshments will be served from 12 noon.

Out and About with The GEM

Charities' fun run



Westbourne School pupils.

DIABETES UK Cymru, Marie Curie Cancer Care and St John Cymru Wales are appealing for more people to get into the Christmas spirit – by taking part in their first joint festive fun run at Penarth.

The fancy dress event will help raise vital funds for the three charities and organisers are aiming for 150 people to take part along Penarth seafront on December 12.

"So far, 30 runners have signed up and many Penarth businesses have shown their support by providing mulled wine, mince pies and raffle prizes for the day. Penarth residents and pupils from Westbourne School will also be setting up a cake stall at the event," said Ruth Kearney of St John Cymru.

"Starting at 2pm next to the cliff top playground, people can either run or walk the 3km (two-mile) course for any of the three charities in Christmas fancy dress, even if it's just a piece of

tinsel or Santa hat.

"The day will be the perfect way to get into the festive spirit as it will also feature an under-12s fancy dress competition and carol singing by the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band."

Prizes will be given for the best costumes, which will be judged by Santa at the finish line in the Italian Gardens.

Dai Williams, National Director of Diabetes UK Cymru, said: "We are so pleased to be working with Marie Curie Cancer Care and St John Cymru Wales to host our first joint Festive Fun Run.

"More than 153,000 people are now diagnosed with diabetes in Wales – nearly one in 20 – and that number is rapidly rising.

"The money the fun runners raise will help Diabetes UK Cymru to provide advice, support and information to people with diabetes and pay for vital research into the condition."

Runners must be over the age of 12, but under-12s can take part in the Christmas fancy dress competition.

For further information, visit the new website www.penarthfunrun.com or call 029 2042 6068.

Ty Hafan carol concert date

WHAT better way to start your Christmas by singing carols for Ty Hafan at its Cardiff's Christmas concert in Cardiff's City Hall on Thursday, December 9 at 6pm.

Host and TV presenter Rhodri Owen will be joined by Barry Brass Band, City Voices, Cardiff, Ysgol

Gwaun y Nant, Glan-yr-Afon Primary School and Howell's Senior Girls' Choir.

All proceeds from the evening will help Ty Hafan to continue providing it services to life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales.

Purchase tickets online at www.tyhafan.org/carol-concert or by contacting 029 2067 2065.

The Big Screen

THE Big Screen's next presentation is From Time To Time (PG), which will be shown on Thursday, November 25, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

This film is directed by Julian Fellowes, who also wrote the recent ITV hit *Downton Abbey*.

It stars some of the same cast, including Maggie Smith and Hugh Bonneville, plus favourites Timothy Spall and Pauline Collins.

A young boy, evacuated to an ancient mansion during World War II, has to deal with apparitions from the ghostly past.

Based on Lucy M Boston's book 'The Chimneys of Green Knowe'.

Doors open at 7.10pm. Tickets £3 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

The Green Room

ON Friday, December 3 at 8pm, writer John Barnie and musician 'Stainless' Steel Garrett, entertain guests at the Green Room, 41 John Street, Porthcawl – the Sustainable Wales office.

John Barnie will be launching his latest book – a collection of essays about politics and culture, titled *Fire Drill: Notes on the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century*, published by Seren.

Based in Cardiff, Steve Garrett returns to his guitar roots, creating songs for challenging times, while paying homage to musicians such as Mose Allison, Dan Hicks and Richard Thompson.

Admission £3 on the door.

Tell us 'What's On' in your area - gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Meet Santa on the Dean Forest Railway!

WHY not make a date with Santa who will be brimming with Christmas cheer at the Dean Forest Railway?

Climb aboard one of the steam trains and soak up some early festive magic in the wintry Forest of Dean, a spokesperson writes.

Santa will be laden with gifts for children and may well have some goodies for adults as well! His sack always has a worthwhile gift for everyone and he seeks out every bright-eyed believer during the train journey.

There are no queues on the platform to see him. Bring your camera to snap the magical moment of seeing Santa.

The round trip through the Forest to Parkend in beautifully restored carriages, hauled by one of our steam locomotives, takes about an hour, and on-train entertainment is provided.

Adults are not forgotten with mince pies and

a seasonal tippie! Santa's special trains will run on December 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 and 24. Trains depart from Northard at 11.30am, 1pm or 2.30pm on each of those days.

The DFR is based at Northard, near Lydney, where there is a large free car park, award winning museum, a well-stocked gift shop and cafeteria serving healthy snacks and soft drinks.

Advance booking is essential and all seats are pre-allocated and identified on tickets.

Children's presents are specifically allocated according to age and

gender, so staff ask for this detail when booking.

Further details can be found on the website and in the special Santa brochure available from leaflet racks and from the Northard shop.

New for 2010 is the Family Party Ticket which offers a discount to parties of four or more (adults or children). See the DFR website at www.dfr.co.uk for full details and advance booking arrangements.

The shop (telephone 01594 845840) can also provide full information and booking guidance.

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Enquiries to 01594 845840
(11am - 4pm daily)

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Sunday 28th November 10.30am - 4.00pm

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Children's Choir 2.00 pm on Saturday
Wood Turner • Photography • Free Prize Draw
Tortoise Society Displays • Owls 4U

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Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Horseradish Sauce
Cod Steak with a Herb Crust in a Tomato & Sweet Pepper Sauce
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'BUSINESS AS USUAL' AT THE ST CYRES SCHOOL



St Cyres' Fairtrade counter.

FROM the opening address of the Headteacher Dr Jonathan Hicks, to the last visitor leaving, it was clear that it was "business as usual" at the St Cyres school open evening.

Hundreds of local parents and pupils were treated to the usual high standard displays of staff and pupils working together to produce an enjoyable and informative evening.

Prospective parents were able to see computer-aided design and manufacture of key fobs, and sample the delicious work of catering students in technology.

A fascinating display of World War I and II memorabilia was on display in history, together with samples of yet more (historical!) food and fun quizzes.

An impressive array of geography tech was on view and the RE dept delivered a fine display of artefacts, as well as performing a thought provoking playlet.

Yet more performances were given by pupils working with the English faculty and open rehearsals were given by the school wind band and staff and pupils preparing for the production of *The Sound of Music*, which will be performed at the end of January.

The languages faculty occupied the new hall

and their French bistro provided all visitors with the opportunity to rest their feet and enjoy a café noir or a croissant!

Once rested, the visitors were also able to see presentations ranging from the school's thriving Fairtrade group, to the equally thriving Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, in which St Cyres continues to lead the way in Wales.

The science block was extremely busy, for as well as the usual fun and games with DNA testing, liquid nitrogen, frozen carbon dioxide and the Van der Graff generator, to name but a few.

There was also a presentation given by the school's national winners of the Wellcome Trust competition, who were shortly about to embark upon their prize – a trip in Darwin's footsteps to the Galapagos Islands!

In addition to this, there were fun displays from the Maths and Business and IT faculties.

An exciting display of talent was on show in the school gym, where pupils were displaying their skills at trampolining, table tennis and much more.

It was good to see St Cyres in the spotlight for all the right reasons, and it shows that, despite the flood setback in September, the school is well and truly back on track!

MM



Performing in German in front of the Bistro



Performing Roald Dahl's Red Riding Hood and the Wolf.



ABOVE: Trampolining in the gym
LEFT: Making Welshcakes!



ABOVE: The girls check out the piste before the competition.

Cowbridge pupils do well in skiing championships

ARTIFICIAL SLOPE SUCCESS

THE British Schools Artificial Skiing Championships took place in Stoke on Trent.

The school had three teams who had qualified from the Welsh Schools attending these championships. Travelling up on Saturday to attend ski training in the evening, the Cowbridge skiers were hopeful of a very successful weekend.

Training went well, especially for the newcomers racing for the first time at this level. These were Harry Hopkin (year-7), Ben Thomas (year-8), Nicky Griffiths (year-9) and Hannah Thomas (year-10). With an early start on Sunday, it was straight to bed after supper.

On a glorious cold autumn morning, all skiers collected their bibs for training and course inspections. The girls were first off in a field of 100 skiers.

First racer was Hannah Thomas who completed the 18 gates of a very tight course. Unfortunately, sister Amy was disqualified at the last but one when she straddled the gate. The same happened to Sarah Williams, and it was left to captain Emily Hopkins to finish in an excellent time of 14.03.

First off for the boys in the A Team was Matthew Goodlad in a very good time of 16.01secs. Jack Phillips going for a fast time, straddled a gate and was disqualified. Harri Hitchcock kept the boys team in contention with 15.45secs but captain George Spill suffered



ABOVE: Emily Hopkins achieved an excellent time.

like many other skiers with a straddle and disqualifications.

The B Team was led off by year-7 pupil Harry Hopkin, who showed the senior boys how to complete the difficult course in a time of 17.69secs. Ben Thomas, skiing at this level for the first time suffered a nasty fall but managed to get back up and finish the course to keep the B Team in the competition.

Nicky Griffiths did not finish and captain James Griffiths completed the course in a controlled 16.65secs.

In the team event, after the first run, three skiers out of four have to complete the course to count. Unfortunately, only the B team managed this, so in the second run it was just practice for some.

Sarah Williams showed that she is a very good skier with a time of 14.65secs which would have put her in the top 10 in the field if she had completed the first run.

Emily Hopkins improved her second run to finish third overall to gain bronze medal position.

Harry Hitchcock was the highest placed boy and completed his second run to finish 23rd out of 100. Youngsters Harry Hopkin and Ben Thomas proved their potential by completing the second run in very good times.

A great weekend was had by all. Sadly not the success for some skiers they had wished for. Unlike other sports, you get one chance to get it right.



LEFT: The team in their t-shirts.

In brief

Festive fayre
ON Monday, November 29 at 7pm, Colwinston Village Hall is holding another Christmas fayre in aid of the WI, offering a complimentary glass of mulled wine and mince pies.

Stalls include home-made cakes, jewellery and accessories, designer baby clothes, organic handmade cosmetics and gifts from Goose Island and Stanley Market. Free admission.

Charity tea
FESTIVE afternoon tea will be held on Sunday, December 12 at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, from 3pm-5pm.

Tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies, cakes, preserves, Christmas crafts and tombola. All proceeds will be donated to Velindre Hospital.

'BECOMING HUMAN' IS STAGED AT BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



ABOVE: The official clapperboard



ABOVE: The show's main characters in a scene in a school corridor with Barry Comprehensive School extras in the background



ABOVE: Preparing to shoot a scene in the school's atrium with more Barry Comprehensive School extras.



ABOVE: Monitoring the filming on the high tech equipment



The school gym is floodlit for an eerie scene

BARRY Comprehensive School provided the location and the extras for the filming of the latest instalment in the BBC's cult hit series *Being Human*.

The filming, for an internet and red-button spin-off called *Becoming Human*, took place over half-term and involved dozens of pupils.

Fan blogs and Twitter tweets have speculated about the plot, the exact details of which are being kept under wraps, but we can reveal that a regular cast member from *Being Human* also appears in the new production.

Becoming Human will be broadcast in the New Year and everyone at the school is looking forward to spotting themselves on screen. Cut...Reset!



ABOVE: Tom Tsang is presented with the CAD/CAM Award by First Minister Carwyn Jones AM.

Innovation Awards

Barry Comprehensive Schools' Faculty of Design Technology had three of its pupils nominated at the recent WJEC Innovation Awards.

The awards are an annual design event organised by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Joint

Education Committee. Ben Callow, Yousuf Arshad and Tom Tsang all had their work displayed at the national event and Tom won the overall prize for CAD/CAM, which was presented to him by the First Minister Carwyn Jones.

All three boys are continuing their studies in the sixth form.

AC

Making a stand against racism

LOCAL members of both the Labour Party and Plaid Cymru "put political differences aside" to unite last weekend and campaign against racism at Barry's King Square, handing out campaign leaflets to shoppers from anti-racism organisation 'Hope Not Hate'.

Barry Labour councillor, Rob Curtis, who co-ordinated the event said: "The Hope Not Hate campaign mobilises everyone opposed to racism and the politics of hate.

"Remembrance weekend was a time to reflect on those who gave their lives for this country.

"It was also an opportunity to think about the traditions and values by which we should live our lives - freedom, equality and tolerance."



ABOVE: United by a message of hope.

College students get a taste of politics



ABOVE: Students work on new legislation and meet Jane Hutt AM in the Senedd.

LEVEL 2 Business & Retail students from Barry College recently got a taste of a life in politics at the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff Bay.

They took part in a debate about the education maintenance allowance (EMA) system in the Siambr Hywel, a special chamber for youth debates under full Assembly rules. They then participated in a workshop on making a new law. They were met at the Senedd by Vale AM and Business and Budget Minister Jane Hutt, who held a question and answer session.

Rise and rise of Vale People First!

THE Vale People First AGM attracted members from across the Vale, with a number of trustees in attendance including Jane Hutt AM, who spoke on her role as Finance Minister for Wales.

"It was great to take part in the Vale People First AGM and to hear about all their activities across the past year. Membership is growing and Vale People First is playing an important role in providing opportunities for a wide range of people," she commented.



PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Making 'back-up' straightforward

THIS is always worth repeating. Having decided which files are worth safeguarding by backing up, it is time to set about making the task as straightforward as possible.

If it is too cumbersome and time-consuming, you are less likely to do it so it pays to have your files stored in a logical way that suits the way you 'work'.

You might prefer to group files into folders according to dates or subjects, or any other criterion that matters to you.

There is no 'best way', only your preferred way. It is OK to put all the files for one year (or term, or month) into one folder with sub-folders for topics and/or subjects.

Similarly, you could put all files on one topic into a 'topic' folder with sub-folders for each year, month, week or even day.

The more locations that contain your data files, the more complex your back-up routine could become, so it is wise to contain them in one place.

Microsoft encourages users to put all their files under 'My Documents', but concedes that 'My Downloads', 'My Music' and similar main folders are OK too.

Each can have many sub-folders and more main folders can be created if necessary.

Applications have a default location and will save files to that location unless told otherwise.

In Word, for instance, go Tools>Options>File Locations> highlight 'Documents'; click on 'Modify'; navigate to the required folder and say 'OK' and 'OK' again.

With files efficiently arranged for

back-up purposes, how do we do it?

You can study the built-in back-up facilities of your operating system or buy specialist applications that are even more customisable, but if you are new to the task, you could simply use drag and drop until you have a better idea of just what you need.

Now the organisation pays off as there are fewer main folders that need to be copied.

A quick 'incremental backup' means only files that are changed or new are added to your back-up store.

However, you might need to have all the data restored to access a single file.

On the other hand, a drag and drop back-up method to external hard drives uses more storage, but allows individual files to be recovered easily. The simplicity is thought by many to be good value – and there is flexibility to intersperse full back-ups with partial backups.

Where do you store the back-up?

You could:

- copy to a new folder on your drive (not the safest); copy the files to a DVD (or two); copy onto an external hard drive (or even better, use two external hard drives alternately); copy to memory sticks; use free web-based storage.

You can, of course, pick and mix options!

The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 23 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth 7.30pm. Chris will talk about the benefits of using a free virtual computer. Visitors welcome.

For more information, ring me on 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND

What's On in brief

Scout fayre

THE 11th Barry Sea Scout Christmas fayre takes place on Saturday, November 27, from 11am-1pm.

Visit Santa's Grotto; many stalls, including refreshments, lucky dip, tin stall and luxury Christmas hamper raffle, Scout stamps. Venue: Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry. Free entry.

Scout Hall book sale

TURKEY bites, tea and coffee, book sale and bric-a-brac in November 28 (Reindeer Sunday) from 10.30am-1pm at the Scout Hall, behind the Cattle Market, Cowbridge.

Workshops

PALMERSTON CENTRE, Barry is opening on Saturdays for one day workshops with a festive theme.

On Saturday, December 4, there will be the chance to create fashionable bags and fashion accessories.

Telephone 01446 733762 for more information.

SPOOKY GOINGS ON AT THE BARRY GUIDE HALL!

THERE were some very spooky goings-on at the 10th Barry Guide Hall, when the Rainbows celebrated Halloween with a party and games.

The Brownies held a disco with lots of crazy dancing and party games.

The Guides also held a very spooky disco, with apple-bobbing and a mummy-making competition!

Spooky fun was had by all the girls (and the leaders!)

Anyone interested in being involved with Guiding, as a member, leader, or occasional helper, can contact the District Commissioner on 01446 750645.



RAINBOWS.



BROWNIES.

Christian's woe after injury

NATIONAL Hunt jockey Christian Williams, whose father Robert runs a pony trekking centre in Ogmere, had the misfortune to break both his arms when his mount Beshabar was brought down at the second last fence in a novice's steeplechase at Cheltenham on Saturday.

Ironically, Beshabar was still in with a chance of winning the race when the accident happened and it seems likely that Williams, who was once sidelined for 18 months owing to injury, will be out of the saddle for some time.

The former point-to-point rider, who went on to be placed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National, has buckets full of courage and it is hoped that he can come bouncing back once

again.

Beshabar is trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthaw and is one of his main hopes to shine at the bigger meetings this season. On a happier note, Kenfig Hill's Rhys Flint landed a double at Market 0 on Sunday with Andharr in the novices' hurdle race and Ursis in the handicap chase.

BRIAN LEE

Who wants to build what and where in the Vale?

Mr Gruffydd James – Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major – Flood proofing a listed building.

Mr Chris Ayng – 88 South Road, Sully – Retention of bungalow as built.

Mr Neil Harding – 87, Cornerswell Road, Penarth – Single storey rear extension for use as kitchen and breakfast area.

Mr Bellamy – 9 Clos Llanfair, Wenvoe – Conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr David Taylor – 20 Dylan Close, Llandough – Conversion and extensions to dwelling house to form 5 no. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments.

Mr James Hindmarsh – 2 Church Place South, Penarth – Alterations

to the rear of property, extend and improve the existing first floor balcony, new balcony in loft area and new windows to elevation. Mr Gareth Cull – 7 River Walk, Llantwit Major – Single storey extension to side and rear, providing garage, lounge, utility room and WC.

Mr Alan Davies – 19 Gwennol y Mor, Barry Island – Porch to front elevation.

Mr P Scourfield – 198 Holton Road, Barry – Conversion of existing retail/residential unit into Local Government office, including external alterations to the building and shopfront.

Mrs Janet Wilson – Kumalo House, 69 Eastgate, Cowbridge – Extension of existing

house and conversion of it into two dwellings. Erection of small dwelling at rear and parking.

Mrs Lesley Stokes – Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – Redevelopment of public realm and vehicle parking along Boverton Road including a new retaining wall and street furnishings and fixings.

Mr Gareth Davies – 124 Windsor Road, Penarth – Conversion of the house, above the existing lower ground level flat into 2 no. one bedroom dwelling units.

Mr David Coombes – Railway Terrace Garage, Railway Terrace, Penarth – Two flag poles.

Marine Management Organisation – Holm Deep, Bristol Channel

– Dredging disposal site.

The Barry Waterfront Consortium – Land at Barry Waterfront, adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry – Retrospective application for the erection of 5 no. freestanding signs advertising the intention to develop land for residential and commercial purposes.

Marine Scene – Crown House, Windsor Road, Penarth – Divide building into three separate units plus associated alterations. Plus change of use from A1 to mixed use A1, A2 and B1.

Mr Leigh Jones – 2 The Verlands, Cowbridge – New dwelling.

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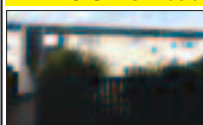
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Garage and Gardens
No Chain

We wish to offer for sale this modern semi detached property situated in this popular residential development on the outskirts of St. Athan Village, being ideally located within short distance of the historic town of Llantwit Major the Heritage Coast and 20 minutes drive to Barry. The property has been well maintained by its present owners and enjoys upvc double glazing, gas central heating, three good sized bedrooms, garage and gardens and is offered for sale with no forward chain. The accommodation comprises: entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and rear and garage.

Viewing of this property is by appointment only via this office.

£119,950

18 Clive Road, St. Athan



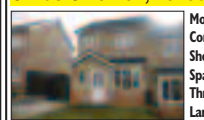
Modern Mid Link
Two Reception Rooms
Superbly Presented
Garage & Gardens
Three Bedrooms
No Chain

Superbly presented modern mid link property situated on this popular residential development overlooking the golf course on the outskirts of St. Athan Village, close to the historic town of Llantwit Major and the scenic Heritage Coast, and within easy driving distance of Barry, Cardiff and Bridgend. The property is offered for sale with no forward chain and enjoys gas central heating, upvc double glazing, fitted wardrobes in all bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, downstairs cloakroom, utility room, low maintenance gardens and garage. The accommodation briefly comprises entrance porch, utility room, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage and gardens.

Viewing of this property is by appointment only via this office.

£129,950

6 Plas Gwernen, Pencoedre Village, Barry



Modern Semi Detached
Conservatory
Show Home Quality Throughout
Spacious Living Accommodation
Three Bedrooms
Landscaped Gardens

A rare opportunity to purchase this superbly presented modern semi detached property set in a quiet cul de sac on this popular Pencoedre Village estate. The property is presented to show home standard throughout and enjoys good sized living accommodation, including conservatory, lounge, fitted kitchen with selected appliances and dining area, three good sized bedrooms, gas central heating with combi boiler, upvc double glazing, power shower in bathroom and landscaped gardens. The property is ideally situated close to all local amenities including local supermarket and within easy driving distance of Barry Town Centre, Cardiff City Centre and the M4 Motorway. The accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom with gardens to front and rear and off road parking.

Viewing of this property is by appointment only via this office.

£167,950

64 Brookfield Avenue, Barry



Modern Semi Detached
Two Double Bedrooms
Cul De Sac Location
Conservatory
Superbly Presented
Landscaped Gardens

We are pleased to be able to offer for sale this modern semi detached property situated in an elevated position in a quiet area cul de sac on this popular residential development on the outskirts of Barry. The property is an ideal buy for the first time buyer and offers spacious living accommodation with the additional of upvc conservatory, off road parking, newly fitted kitchen and bathroom and landscaped gardens. The property is offered for sale with no forward chain and is within easy driving distance of Barry, Cardiff and the M4 Motorway. The accommodation briefly comprises entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, two double bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and rear.

Viewing of this property is by appointment only via this office.

£144,950

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News from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

A VERY SPECIAL EVENING

AN exciting opportunity to experience some of the learning activities on offer to year-7 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg were an integral part of a recent year-7 parents' evening.

Parents often contact the school to ask for constructive and practical advice on how to help their children with their work.

In response to this, a series of inter-active workshops were held, in order to provide the necessary guidance for parents to help their children with their learning in secondary school.

It was a resounding success, with parents choosing between workshops: Safe Surfing (using the internet safely); Read On, encouraging your child to read; study skills to fit learning profiles and assessments; reports and targets make sense – as well as discussing progress with form tutors.



ABOVE: Welsh and English book stall.



Cake stall raising money for Children in Need.

Children turn wall into a work of art in Barry



ABOVE and left: Some examples of the wall art created by local children.

SHAKESPEARE Residents Association in Barry has been working with local children over the last few months to create a work of art – on a block wall!

The association's youngest member, Lydia Evans (18), the newest member of the committee, put the children's ideas to the committee and then the project was born.

The Vale Council had demolished a row of garages on land adjacent to Green Lane and Stratford Green and children as young as four years old were recruited!

The wall depicts the last four decades and displays local influences such as the statue of the

founder of Barry Docks, David Davies, and Barry Island.

There are worldwide icons – from Martin Luther King to Michael Jackson. The Vale Youth Street Team also helped by projecting images onto the wall so that youngsters could follow an outline.

There is also a poem displayed on the wall, written by two local boys, which describes how youngsters feel that sometimes they are unfairly treated.

Local resident, 13-year-old Lucy Adams, who was among those involved, said:

"Everyone worked hard to make this happen, I hope no one spoils the work we've done; it would be disrespectful."

Rotary Club congratulates two students

TWO students from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry were recently the guests of the town's Rotary Club at its lunchtime meeting.

The club sponsored both students, Sarah Ellis and Iolo Westacott, on a leadership and teamwork course, in the Brecon Beacons, at Dolygaer Outdoor Centre, with instructors from Merthyr Tydfil council for four weeks in the summer.

Sarah and Iolo experienced gorge walking, caving, orienteering, sailing, and abseiling. They attended the

meeting to collect their certificates, and afterwards spoke of their adventures and what they got out of the course.

Both had discovered new things about themselves, and had made many new friends. They thanked the Rotary Club for making it all possible.

If you are interested in helping like-minded people to make such opportunities possible, contact the secretary of Barry Rotary Club, Carl Kerr, on 01446-736641; or email the president of Barry Rotary Club, Ceri Griffiths, on griff@welsh-hawking.co.uk

RP



ABOVE: Sarah Ellis and Iolo Westacott receive their certificates from Ceri Griffiths, president of Barry Rotary Club

St Richard Gwyn pupils honour the fallen heroes at their Remembrance service in the school hall



ABOVE: St Richard Gwyn students and Mrs Joan Lake of the British Legion at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

PUPILS at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School have again supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The collecting tins were full to the brim and every member of the school was wearing a poppy as they gathered in the school hall for the service and two-minute silence.

The service was led by the head girl, Madison Ramsden, and head

boy, Reuben Mitchell, and pupils greeted Mrs Joan Lake, who supplies the school with their poppies and is the link with the British Legion.

The chaplain and eight pupils were missing as they were at Merthyr Dyfan cemetery with members of the services, the Mayor and others, including Alun Cairns MP, observing the day with local primary schoolchildren.

College student 'saw' off a local challenge



Pictured left to right: Naomi Gilfillan, Dale Barratt and round winner Michael Bull (only Michael will take part in the trainees' final).

A BARRY College student has made it to the national final of the 'Ultimate Challenge' – a carpentry competition with a £10,000 prize for the winner in the apprentice category.

Michael Bull (20) from Cardiff, won a regional heat of the trainees' competition, sponsored by Irwin Tools. He will now travel to the final which will be held in south London in the run-up to Christmas.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL HEOL GER Y FELIN (PART) AND LLANMAES ROAD (PART) LLANTWIT MAJOR (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME) ORDER 2010

On the 29th October 2010 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

The Order will come into operation on the 5th November 2010, or on the date the necessary signs / road markings are in place, whichever is the later. A copy of the Order and a plan showing the affected area may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the same, or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 5th November 2010 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

Prohibition of waiting, at any time.

Heol Ger-y-Felin

On both sides from its junction with Llanmaes Road for a distance of 45 metres north.

Llanmaes Road

On its north side from a point 10 metres west of Heol Ger-y-Felin to a point 10 metres east of that junction.

Dated this 18th day of November 2010

Mr. M.E. Punter

Head of Visible Services

Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps Offices, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, Vale of Glamorgan, CF5 6AA.

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2010

AR GYFER GWAHARDDD AROS AR UNRHYW ADEG AR RAN O HEOL GER Y FELIN A RHAN O Ffordd LLANMAES LLANILLTUD FAWR

Ar 29 Hydref 2010, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 1 A 2 o Ddeddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob p_er galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol sydd wedi'i egluro yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 5 Tachwedd 2010, neu os bydd yn rhaid aros nes y bydd yr arwyddion / marciau ffordd angenrheidiol wedi'u cwblhau, ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal dan sylw yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

Os hoffech ddadlau yn erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 5 Tachwedd 2010 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN

Gwahardd aros ar unrhyw adeg.

Heol Ger-y-Felin

Ar ddwy ochr yr heol o'r gyffordd â Ffordd Llanmaes am 45 metr i'r gogledd.

Heol Llanmaes

Ar ochr ogleddol yr heol o fan sy'n 10 metr i'r gorllewin o Heol Ger-y-Felin am 10 metr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd honno.

Dyddiedig 18 Tachwedd 2010

M. Punter

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel, Gwentô CF5 6AA.

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Beidr Iorwg, Pencoedtre

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Call Gail 01446 709943

£250,000



Bryn y Gloyn, Rhoose Point

Superb Detached - Water View, 4 Double Bedroom, 2 En-Suite, Lounge, Dining Rm, Kitchen/Bkfst, Bathroom & Cloaks/Wc, Gch, Upvc DG, 2 Car Drive, Garage, Beautiful Walled Garden.

Call Jenny 01446 713005

£249,950



Lower Farm Court, Rhoose Village

Stunning Detached Property, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions, Superb Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Bathrm, En-Suite, Cloaks/wc, GCH, Upvc DG, Double Garage, 2 Car Drive, Generous Gardens.

Call Jenny 01446 713005

£349,950



Malefant House, Llanmaes

Detached Family Home, 4 Beds, 3 Recs, Modern Fitted Kitchen, 2 Shwr Rms, 4 Piece Family Bathroom, Gas Fired Heating, Double Glazed, Gardens, Garage, Internal Inspection Recommended.

Call Simon 01446 791963

£439,950



Churchfields, Barry

Well Presented Semi, Lounge & Modern Kitchen, Stunning Lux Conservatory, 1st Floor Bathroom/WC, Gch, Upvc DG, Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden.

Call Gail 01446 709943

£134,950



Station Road, Rhoose Village

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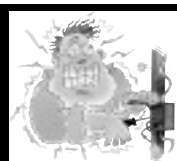
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BARRY Wanderers CC entertained Cardiff Cavaliers at Hayes Point on the last Saturday in September on a glorious day for cricket.

The match brought to an end an illustrious 20-year cricketing career of Wanderers' 'keeper 63-year-old Brian

Gist. Cavaliers ended up resounding winners by 67 runs.

The match was Brian's last time on the field at Barry Wanderers' home at Hayes Point, but he played his last Wanderers games on tour in Barbados in October, a tour that celebrated 40 years of Barry Wanderers Cricket Club. Well done Brian!

Under-11s v CRICC

THIS week saw Cowbridge on the road, with CRICC the destination for the under-11s.

Both sets of coaches decided on four quarters of 15 minutes each to allow game time for all the boys.

Prior to kick-off, a minute's silence was immaculately observed for Remembrance Sunday.

From the start it was obvious the Cowbridge boys had their game faces on and the ball moved through the backs for Rhydian Williams to open the scoring.

Cowbridge kicked deep to the opposition



ABOVE: The team pay their respects.

and once again, the Cardiff boys surrendered possession.

Max Lucas, Jake Griffiths, Cameron Roy, Jac Roberts and Dan Taylor were immense as the ball was continuously presented for the back line. Ioan Lewis fed Rhys Bradshaw and the outside-half ghosted over for the try.

Rhys Bradshaw's restarts were superb, allowing Bevan Howells to gather the next kick and storm over for the next score.

Cowbridge were dominant all over the field and after superb service from Ioan Lewis, the ball was moved through the back line, allowing full-back Morgan Gore to enter the line and release the impressive Rhydian Williams for the try.

At the end of the first quarter, the score was CRICC 0 Cowbridge 28.

With all the replacements on the field, the next quarter kicked off and continued in the same vein. The introduction of Sam Corkill, Dylan Cottle, Dan Marshall and William Davies upfront saw no drop in the commitment or intensity and Olly Reynolds worked superbly at scrum-half.

The next score came from excellent work by

the forwards, allowing Dan Taylor the space to drive over.

Sam Corkill was magnificent at the break down and this allowed the Cowbridge back line all the space required to express themselves.

The classy Bevan Howells scored a quick-fire hat trick of tries, and as the whistle approached for the end of the second quarter, the outstanding Jac Roberts added the next score, rounding off a superb move for CRICC 0 Cowbridge 63.

For the third quarter, the pack was shuffled again which resulted in an unlikely, but powerful centre pairing of Max Lucas and Jake Griffiths.

Cowbridge dominated all areas of the contest and proceeded to add further tries from Jake Griffiths, Rhys Bradshaw, Dan Marshall and Rhydian Williams.

By this time, the CRICC boys had given their all and it was decided to end the game. All the tries were converted to leave a final score of CRICC 0 Cowbridge 91.

This was an outstanding performance from all the boys against a very good CRICC side. It was extremely pleasing to see performances from everyone involved.

Our thanks to all the boys from CRICC, who never gave up and showed an equal measure of commitment and talent. Many thanks to the coaches and parents for their warm welcome and hospitality in the club house after the game.

Squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Daniel Marshall, Daniel Taylor, Dylan Cottle, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, Max Lucas, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhydian Williams, Rhys Davies, Rhys Bradshaw, Sam Corkill, William Davies.

Reuben Davies and Finlay Brace bagged a pair before CRICC scored again.

The Cowbridge boys then really got into their defensive lines and put pressure on the opposition.

The boys were able to score freely, with some quite exceptional running from Reuben Davies, who scored a massive seven tries out of a total of 19, ably supported by a quite superb team effort.

Scorers: Reuben Davies (7), Will Harries (3), Akka Guwy (3), Harry Trearne (2), Finlay Brace (2), Robbie Brown (2).

Squad: Finlay Brace, Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Reuben Davies, Ethan Francis, Akka Guwy, Will Harries, Archie Lloyd, Will Ryan. MTL

Honours are even between Cowbridge and CRICC under-8s

A DREARY, damp morning saw Cowbridge under-8s travel to Whitchurch for the return fixture with CRICC.

The rain held off, and Cowbridge fielded a squad of 16 for the game, and played four 10-minute quarters.

A poor defensive performance in the first quarter allowed CRICC to take a 6-3 lead.

Better field positioning in the second quarter resulted in a better defensive display, effectively preventing CRICC from adding to their total.

Cowbridge, meanwhile, added three to their total by half-time. Concerted pressure by Cowbridge should have resulted in more tries but there was little continuity allowed in the game by the referee.

After half-time, Cowbridge crossed the line on a number of occa-

sions only to have tries disallowed, or some good runs resulting in a number of turnovers by players drifting into touch.

Cowbridge managed to add a further try in the third quarter while CRICC added three, leaving Cowbridge adrift by 9-7.

A sterling performance by Cowbridge in the final quarter brought the scores back level, resulting in a draw at 10-10.

Tries: Harri Hawkins, Charlie Locke (2), Aled Leitch, David Harris, Owen Godsall, Iestyn Owen, Oliver Jarman, Ioan Davies.

Squad: Ioan Davies, Ben Farrell, David Harris, Harry Hawkins, Robbie Hawkins, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Iestyn Owen, Dewi Williams, Owen Godsall, Harry Holt, Tom Johnson, Robyn Martin, McKinley Parsons, Oliver Jarman. KH

GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

HUMPHREYS Bob

Peacefully on November 10 in hospital, Bob, aged 80 years of Llantwit Major, formerly of Penrhilwceiber.

Sadly missed by John, Pauline, Mrs Davies, Kirsty, Daisy, Katie and Sophie.

Funeral service held on Thursday November 18. Sleep well Bob, with the angels. You are at peace now. You will always be in our hearts and thoughts.

All enquiries, flowers or donations to LATCH (cheques only) please to WA Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1SG. 01446 792489.

Janet Nehls

My wife

Two years now since you passed away, but you are with me since we first met in August 1972. I love you forever. Love, Hansi.

Mum

Your loss hurts just as much two years on. We long to see your smile, hear your voice and hold you again. Miss you forever, best mum in the world! Love, Joanne and Christian.

LIGHTFOOT Hilda

Peacefully on November 9, Hilda (née Williams), wife of the late Jim; loving mother to Rowena and Alex; grandmother to her five grandchildren, loving sister to Ena and Janet; sister-in-law to the late John Davies and John. Fondly remembered aunt to all her nieces and nephews. Funeral on Saturday November 20 in Cardigan.

ZEMLA Clovia

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on November 10, 2010, aged 79 years.

Will be greatly missed by all who knew her. A private cremation will be taking place.

Send in your Birthday, Anniversary or Congratulatory Message. It costs from as little as

£20 plus VAT. Call THE GEM on 01446 774484 or gemsales@internet-today.co.uk

CHALLENGER Bill

After a long illness, patiently borne, Bill passed away with courage and dignity at Brocas Manor Nursing Home on 7 November, 2010. Service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, November 27 at 10.30am, committal at Coity Crematorium midday. Friends are invited to join the family at West House Hotel, Llantwit Major from 12.45pm to celebrate Bill's life. Family flowers only, please. Donations received will be in support of the Alzheimer's Society, or the Galilee Chapel restoration.

In loving memory, Phyl, Sue, Jill, Alex, Becky and Russell.

Birthdays

CHARLIE UNDERWOOD

To a wonderful Dad on his 90th Birthday

November 19, 2010

With all our love, Phil & Sue, Aaron, Kirsty, Luke & Carly

XXXX

CHARLIE UNDERWOOD

To a special Dad on his 90th Birthday

November 19, 2010

With our love, Ann, John & Helen. Great grandchildren Hannah, Andrew, Emily & Faye. XXXX

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Rugby club are back in action

ALTHOUGH there have been no matches for Cowbridge recently, the club has still been a busy place. Despite a damp evening, the bonfire night was a great success.

Many thanks to all who attended (Ty Hafan will be the beneficiary this year) and also all those who put in a lot of hard work to make sure the evening ran smoothly.

Special mention should go to pyrotechnic master Alun John and his team, who put on a great show under difficult conditions.

On Sunday, November 14, a dozen or so youngsters (under the name 'Future of Cowbridge RFC') met at the club under the expert guid-

ance of Jacqui Jenkins and Hannah Lewis to assemble a Christmas tree to be displayed at the Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Cross Church.

The Festival runs from November 26 - 28.

This Saturday the first team takes on third placed Old Illtudians at the Athletic Field.

Following an encouraging performance in the last game against Wattstown, the boys will be looking for further improvement and as always support is much appreciated.

The kick off is at 2.30pm followed by Ireland v New Zealand at 5.30pm in the clubhouse.

Finally, tickets are already selling well for the Abba/Greek evening at the club on New Year's Eve. Contact Nick Jones for further details and tickets.

RV/RK

Gwenfo team sports new kit



GWENFO rugby team is sporting a new kit, thanks to sponsors R H Seel & Co. "The team is looking forward to playing their next tournaments and are looking smart in their kit," said Sally Hatcher (administrator).

Rising Sun enjoy success in British international event

ON Sunday, November 7, three members of the **Rising-Sun Kyokushin Karate Club** took part in the **British International Karate Kyokushin Championships** in **Folkstone**.

Courtenay Taylor, Natasha Cunvin and Aimee Carr all entered the full contact knock-out event with all three girls doing extremely well.

First on was Aimee. She seemed to dominate the match for the first two minutes with her extraordinary power. After a draw was made by the judges, a two-



The members show the fruits of their success.

minute extension commenced, only to see the English opponent just catch Aimee with a roundhouse to the head at the end of the match, giving her opponent the win. It was Aimee's first match yet she did extremely well and put on a great performance!

Next up was Natasha. The first two-minute round saw her punish her brown belt opponent with a barrage of heavy blows. Her middle roundhouse kick seemed to do most of the damage.

Her aim and goal is to take the European title and she is focused on that goal for 2011. As coach for the team, I was delighted with the trio's performance at the British championship event!

The original Rising-Sun Kyokushin Karate Club train at the Samurai Centre, Savoy Buildings 109 Broad Street, Barry. For a first free lesson for juniors turn up 6-7pm Mondays, seniors 7-8pm. Rising-Stars 4-7 year-olds, Thursday 6-7pm. Call me on 07861699476 or visit www.rising-sun-kyokushin.co.uk for more info.

LEE BENNETT

Big Green Annual makes for a perfect gift for any racing fan



A big crowd gather around the parade ring at Ystradowen.

ON AND OFF THE TURF with BRIAN LEE

THE eagerly-awaited **Big Green Annual 2010**, by **John Beasley**, is now available and it is the perfect Christmas gift for all hunt-racing enthusiasts.

Now in its 11th year, the action and behind the scenes images in this 176 page hardback book are as spectacular as ever.

With contributions from Carl Evans, Mick Connaughton, Mark Wall and others, including yours truly, it is a book that can be dipped into when one has a spare moment or two.

I particularly enjoyed the article by bookmaker George Moir who recalled: "The bigger punters tend to know where they will be accommodated and I always try to look after my regulars, though I am wary when a stranger steps in with a wad."

"In 2008 at Bangor, I had already spotted *Dead Or Alive*, owned by a shrewd gambler and trained by Tim Vaughan (for the

record, it was trained by Tim's wife Abbi) entered in the Maiden race. I kept the price low and the horse was backed at 10-1 down to odds-on and won by a distance.

"Connections did not appear until the bigger odds had gone. Wives and girlfriends were the early punters. Vaughan then appeared, despite having a winner at Warwick that afternoon. I lost £800 on the race, mainly to other book-makers at much lower odds than they had laid."

Incidentally, there is a picture of Aberth's Tim Vaughan and his wife Abbi in the winners' enclosure at Ystradowen, accompanied by James and Richard Lovell after their *Roznic* had won the men's open under Tom David.

The book, which costs £24.95 plus £4.95 p&p, can be obtained from Paleface Publications, 30 Thistlebarrow Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7AI.



Local rider Robbie Llewellyn winning the maiden race on Shelagh Vee.



Stewards Jim Thomas and William Tudor with secretary Alison Morris.

Exciting times at local golf club

THIS year, **St Andrews Major Golf Club** has seen a continuous growth in the number of new members.

The flat course, with its unforgiving rough, challenges both low and high handicappers.

Our junior and ladies sections are developing well and the social side of St Andrews Major goes from strength to strength.

At the end of October we launched the St Andrews Major members website, www.sam-golfclub.com, which is packed full of informa-

tion. The captain's charity this year is Ty Hafan and it is anticipated that, together with the 'captain's pond forfeit', bingo, quiz nights and the annual David Bannister memorial competition, we will raise several thousand pounds towards this very worthwhile charity.

The sale of tickets for the Christmas draw is well on the way and on December 19 we expect to be giving away over £3,000 worth of prizes, from TVs and cameras to bottles of spirits and many other prizes.

JL

Cadoxton Imps plan for Christmas party

CADOXTON IMPS AFC are holding their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 4 at Market Street Social Club, Market Street, Barry with doors opening at 7.30pm.

The entertainment includes singer Darren Thomas Tyson, who will provide an evening of soul, swing and Motown, to get everyone in the dancing mood.

There will also be a disco, a raffle, a quiz and an auction of a few selected items.

Please book your tickets in advance by calling either chairman Martin Pursall on 07733318093 or secretary Gary Spierling on 01446 407591, or

by contacting any of the Imps' managers or committee members.

Any donations for raffle prizes are always greatly appreciated and anyone wishing to donate any prizes should call either Martin or Gary on the above numbers, or bring them along on the night.

This is the party for parents, grandparents, senior players, managers and any other adults.

The event is open to any adults and not restricted to people connected with the various Imps teams, and the Imps committee would welcome any of our footballing friends in the community to come along for what should be a fun and entertaining evening.

All profits raised from the event will go to the Imps.

MP

Pumas grind out hard-fought win

Barry Pumas FC 2
Inter Coryton 1

BARRY Pumas deserve the praise they are getting at the moment after grinding out this win from a skeleton squad.

A bare 11 players turned up for this game, which proved to be a frustrating day for the Barry side.

The first half saw Pumas keeper Mike Lewis make some fine saves to keep them in the game.

The best chance of the half came when Jamie

Randall was fouled in the box, but the resultant penalty was saved well by the Coryton goalkeeper.

After the break, the Pumas persistence paid off when Spencer Lamb blasted home; however, Inter responded quickly and took advantage of a goalkeeper fumble to even the score.

Scott Christopherato was the Pumas saviour, however, when he put them 2-1 up with 15 minutes to go.

MORGAN STEPHENS

Table tennis club for all

CARDIFF and District Table Tennis League's community club,

which meets every Friday from 7pm to 9pm in the upper hall of the Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, invites youngsters and adults of all ages and abilities to come along for a game of table tennis with players of their own ability.

Bats, balls and some coaching are provided free of charge. There is no joining fee and no obligation to come regularly, but players are required to pay a subscription of £2 per evening.

For more details contact Roy Gibson on 01446 412352 or roy-gibson@ntlworld.com or visit the website www.cardifftt.org.uk. ROY GIBSON

Rhose girls' medal haul

ELOISE NEIGHBOUR of Rhose Lifeguards, coached by Karen O'Donoghue Harris, has retained the under-19 ladies British surf ski series champion' title for another season.

She 'endurance paddled' to gold medal positions in all three of the ICON long distance ski races held in Rhose, St Ives and Saunton Sands.

As a bonus this season, she also won the title of under-19 ladies British long distance surf ski champion' after a win at GB Long Distance Ski Championships, sponsored by Ultimate Kayaks in Bournemouth in September.

Eighteen-year-old Eloise, who is a biology undergraduate at Cardiff University, is also part of the university's sport high performance programme, which is structured to support individuals to develop their sporting potential alongside academic study. At the British Surf

Lifesaving Championships held at Falmouth, Lana Evans, Lucy Curtis, Lisa Bremner and Eloise brought back to Wales the GBSLSA Intermediate Ladies Shield after beating strong teams from Devon and Cornwall.

Eloise teamed with fellow Rhose Lifeguard Lucy Curtis, whose explosive paddle start retained the pair the title of under-19 Ladies British Double Surf Ski Champions for a second year.

Lana Evans, who is an amazing surf swimmer, took gold in the individual races under-19 Ladies British Surf Swim and under-19 British Ocean Woman.

Lana teamed with Lucy and Eloise to win the under-19 Ladies GB Surf Swim Team Race, then the trio went on to take the gold medal and the title under-19 Ladies GB Taplin Relay.

Adding to their haul of gold medals, Lana and Eloise paired to win gold in the under-19 Ladies British Tube Rescue Team Race.

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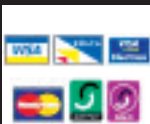
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BRIGHT IS THE HERO FOR TEAM

Last-gasp Llantwit land all three points

LLANTWIT continued their good form and held on to top spot in the VOGAFL Division 1 with a last-gasp win against a spirited Dockers team.

The home team started brightly and were playing some expansive football, creating a copious amount of chances in the process.

Grafton, Thomas, Bright, Hartley and Tracey all had good chances to score but couldn't get their name on the scoresheet.

Gethin Jennings delivered two sublime free kicks which bamboozled the Dockers' defence, but again no Major player could get the finishing touch which they deserved.

The visitors offered little in the way of resistance, but Llantwit, despite their fine first period, just couldn't put

LLANTWIT MAJOR RESERVES 2
DOCKERS RESERVES 1

the ball in the net.

The second period started much the same as the first, but Dockers decided to join the party and were counter-attacking with the vigour that had abandoned them in the first half.

The Major back five of Vincent, Morris, Grahame, Fairchild and inspirational skipper Tracey, dealt with the visitors' attacks with consummate ease.

The Major finally got the breakthrough their play warranted on 65 minutes, as Thomas terrorised the Dockers' full-back, and rather than crossing the ball, decided to take responsibility himself.

His rasping drive gave the visiting 'keeper no chance and marked his first goal of the campaign.

Llantwit's otherwise unbreakable defence were seemingly still celebrating the goal as they mentally switched off to allow the Dockers' striker to run onto a hopeful through ball.

The striker made no mistake to reply to the home team's opener just a minute earlier.

The game appeared to be heading for a draw, but after a flurry of late corners, Llantwit finally scored again in the second minute of stoppage time to give them a thor-

oughly deserved victory.

Craig Bright was the hero as he thundered the ball goalwards, the power proving too much for the visitors' 'keeper.

Man of the match was awarded to young Jack Grahame who won everything in the air, shackled his Dockers opponent superbly all game and played effective intelligent balls out of defence.

Team: L Vincent, O Morris, L Tracey (captain), J Fairchild, J Grahame, G Jennings, P Grafton, J Hartley, J Thomas, D Lansdown, C Bright. Subs: R Grapes, J Ellis, S Phillips.

DC

Llantwit Major netball's winning streak continues

LLANTWIT Major Netball Team continued their winning streak in the Bridgend League with a convincing win over Ogwr.

They started strongly in the first quarter, with shooters Sarah Everall and Lizzie Thomas maximising their shots on goal, and the first quarter ended with Llantwit leading 12-1. The team continued to extend their lead in the second quarter without conceding a goal and at half time were leading 19-1.

At the start of the third quarter, the team continued with the defence of Sarah Thomas, Malvina Wylie and Lizzie Davies making interceptions from

the Ogwr attacking play, enabling shooters Lizzie Thomas and Sarah Everall to increase the lead at the end of the third quarter to 28-2.

During the final quarter of the match, fitness took its toll on the team. With the flow of play slowing down, the match finished with Llantwit winning 32-3.

Team: Sarah Everall, Lizzie Thomas, Jodie Ackland, Kim Spargo, Lizzie Davies, Sarah Thomas, Malvina Wylie and Alys Richardson. Player of the match was Sarah Everall.

Llantwit Netball Club trains every Wednesday at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre from 6pm - 8pm. New members always welcome.

BS



Pictured left to right; Keith Parsons (team coach 2nd Dan), Dan Lages, Henry El Jahwari (currently first in his category), Emma Llewellyn (2nd in category), Jade Parsons (1st in category) and Shihan Lee Costa, chief instructor WKJK. Front line, Callum Eva and Harvey and Annabell Stacey.

WKJK Cogan dojo enjoys success in latest format karate league

SPLOTT Leisure Centre recently hosted the sixth leg of the Karate League, where junior karateka met to compete.

The competition allows both experienced and novice fighters to gain exposure and experience in kumite (fighting) and kata (set movements or patterns) within a controlled, competitive environment.

The format is becoming increasingly popular with a noticeable increase in competitors.

Points are built up towards inclusion in a grand final, to be held in Cogan Leisure Centre during April 2011.

The WKJK Cogan dojo has performed well with several competitors well placed to challenge for championship places.

If you are interested in karate, the Cogan Leisure Centre dojo, under 6th Dan Lee Costa, is always open to new pupils.

Training times, Monday and Friday, (6-8pm); for any information call 07974972479 or visit www.karate-jutsu.org.

LC

Rhose twins in black belt success



Vicky and Becky Selwood

VICKY and Becky Selwood of Rhose Point recently travelled to the TAGB Tae Kwon Do headquarters in Bristol to take their black belt grading.

The twins of Rhose Tae Kwon Do club have been training for the past four years under Mr Joseph Schembri, 4th degree black belt.

A club spokesman said: "They have shown hard work and dedication, passing all previous grades at a high level."

"On the day there

were more than 500 students from all over the country. They were put through their paces by performing patterns, sparring and a theory test.

"At the age of 17, Becky and Vicky became 1st degree black belts. Rhose TKD Club and Inner Spirit Martial Arts congratulate them on their achievement and wish them luck for the future."

Any further information on classes or Tae Kwon Do please contact 07711234500.

JS

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

We welcome your news, reports and items of interest. Email your reports to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Yongsters at Ty Hafan enjoy sports sessions



Youngsters at the Ty Hafan children's hospice in Sully enjoyed a sports sessions organised for them by the Vale Council's Disability Sport Wales development officer Simon Jones.

A GROUP of youngsters from the Ty Hafan children's hospice in Sully has enjoyed the first of what will hopefully become a series of sports sessions, organised for them by the Vale Council's Disability Sport Wales Development Officer Simon Jones.

Simon and volunteers from Barry Comprehensive School and Barry College spent a day at Ty Hafan, giving eight children the chance to take part in a range of sports, including cricket, boccia, kurling and football.

The children had a fantastic time and Sandra

Dumitrescu of Ty Hafan said: "Sport for the children and young people who spend time at Ty Hafan is just as important as it is for any child. To have a session provided for them by a trained sports officer for the disabled and his team of volunteers provided a wonderful opportunity for them to enjoy familiar sports as well as try a few new ones."

"We were fortunate to have a fine day at the hospice which meant the grounds could be used for the youngsters of all physical abilities to develop and extend their skills. I would like to thank Simon and his volunteers for a wonderful session which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone."

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Comfortable win for St Athan THE SAINTS HIT SEVEN PAST CADOXTON IMPS

ST ATHAN FC reserves got back to winning ways on Saturday with a resounding 7-2 victory over lowly Cadoxton Imps, but they had to come from behind

to do it.

Saints conceded an early goal, with goalkeeper Lucas being lobbed following a defensive mix-up. But the back four of George and Ball in the centre, and Vaughn right and Dunn left, reorganised and provided a solid

foundation upon which the victory was built, reinforced by the always improving Lucas.

Steve Vaughn gave a man of the match performance with his example of simple uncomplicated full-back play and driving balls down the wing, for the centre-forward pairing of Howells and younger brother Simon Vaughn to torment the Imps' back line.

Howells was the main beneficiary as he had scored two before half-time and set up midfielder Pilcher to score his first for the Saints.

It all seemed too easy for the home side and straight from the kick-off, Saints' minds were elsewhere, allowing Imps a simple second.

Pilcher, Lewis and Austin stamped their authority on the game to ensure there was no way back.

Pilcher quickly scored his second, ghosting into the Imps' six-yard box. He could have had a third or fourth, but was unable to get his long leg to balls from Vaughn and the unselfish Howells.

Changes in personnel saw midfielders Rogers and Swift enter the fray to ensure it was business as usual for the Saints.

Overlaps allowed Dunn to get a brace, his first a rasping drive from the edge of the box.

Lewis was dismissed late in the second half, and Saints dropped Howells to midfield and replaced Vaughn with the hungry Goodwin.

The final nail in the coffin was supplied by Swift who, benefiting from defensive profligacy, scored to send the home crowd into seventh heaven.

Managers Bradbury and Grundy will be looking for more of the same on Saturday when Saints travel to Tynenydd, who are just above them in the table.

St Athan FC wish to thank their sponsors Green Futures, plus Roy and Cindy at the Four Bells for all their support throughout the season.

JG

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LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

ON another weekend affected by the wet weather, only three matches went ahead.

The under-13 side reached the semi-final of the League Cup with a very easy win against High Street Harriers at Windmill Lane.

Richard Stephens notched a hat trick, Harvey Stockford (2), William Perkins (2), Gabriel Oram (2), Iwan Baker, Ashford Thomas and Rhys Hunter all scored in a 12-0 win.

It was the eighth match this season in which keeper Scott McMillan did not concede a goal.

The under-12A also had another good win, as they won 5-3 at Rhosue with Cai Evans (2), Leo

by GWYN JOHN

Kelly, Jack Barnett and Harry Morgan Grant all finding the net.

This win was on the back of their 9-3 win against the Llantwit Major B team last week, when both sides were fixtured together.

Jonnie Sparks scored a hat trick for the B side, while Jack Barnett (4), Cai Evans (2), Toff Patel, Leo Kelly and Dan Vickers were on target for the A team.

Jonnie Sparks was again on target for the B team when they entertained Cogan B at Windmill Lane; however, the visitors were the stronger team in a 5-1 victory.

Hat-trick for young Bevan as Vale under-11s run in the tries

ON a sunny, windless morning the Vale of Glamorgan under-11 rugby squad ran out winners over Blaenau Gwent last Saturday at Old Penarthians.

Vale started well from a scrum in their own 22 metres with Max Lucas taking one against the head, and Bevan Howells was fed to run hard at the opposition.

It was continued by Harris Kahn, playing on the flank to take play into the opposition's 22, but forwards were slow to support and as a result knocked on when attempting to keep the attack going.

The burly Blaenau Gwent outside half went hard at the defence from the scrum followed by their prop, ably supported by the rest of the pack, but the Vale defence were able to stop the attack.

Ellis Sumon, in the centre, got the ball in hand. He was tackled hard but presented the ball well for the Vale second row Dan Holden to pick and go from 25 metres out and dive over to score the first try of the match.

From the restart, Bevan Howells jumped and sprinted down the right hand touchline, covering over 60 metres to score in the corner. A superb solo effort.

Blaenau Gwent rucked well from their next possession, with Luke Shaw, their full back and captain, prominent.

Vale needed to tackle well against determined driving and control by the opposition.

Blaenau Gwent were awarded

a scrum in the Vale 22 which they ran well, but again were thwarted by great Vale tackling.

Vale managed to steal the ball at the next ruck and feed to Harrison Ashby on the left to sprint a full 60 metres to score near the posts. The try was converted by Jake Griffiths.

A near identical copy of his first try, Bevan Howells caught the Blaenau Gwent restart just inside his own 10 metre line to dummy and sprint along the edge of the right hand touchline to score in his favourite corner, again converted by Jake Griffiths, giving the Vale a deserved 24-0 cushion.

The Blaenau Gwent outside half was having some useful restart kicking practice and from his next attempt Rhys Bradshaw, playing at outside half, ran well for Reuben Williams to continue the attack only for the Blaenau Gwent centre to steal the ball well and attack the Vale line.

The Vale forwards combined well to stop the Blaenau Gwent pack functioning, with Harris Kahn, Jack Little and Cameron Roy combining well to drive away the danger. Then Ioan Lewis found the dangerous backline of Bevan, Rhodri Hopkins, Joseph Williams and Ellis Sumon, who passed Harrison on the left to send him under the posts, which was again converted by Jake Griffiths.

The kick off was taken well by Rhys Bradshaw but was unfortunately lost at the break-down, giving Blaenau Gwent hope. The Vale forwards had other ideas, and led by Max Lucas and Finlay Davies drove the opposition off the ball at the

ruck. The ball went to Bevan in the centre to sprint over 65 metres along the touchline to once again score in the corner to complete his hat-trick of tries. Jake Griffiths converted.

A half time score of 36-0 saw the Vale start the second half in confident mood and with a number of positional changes made at the interval by coaches Mottram and Golding, fielding fresh legs in Jac Tomos, Rhys Jones, Ioan Williams, Iestyn Raven, Jack Lee, Ben Jones and Jack Little.

The second half was again a feast of running rugby by the Vale team, with Joseph Williams linking well with Ben Jones well to send him into the opposition 22, as well as determined forward pressure from captain Rhys Durlucia, Jac Tomos and Jack Little.

Ioan Williams ran well, with a series of dummies. He combined with Rhys Jones who ran hard for the tryline, feeding Rhys Bradshaw on the right to score. Jake Griffiths converted.

A number of late Vale attacks produced no more points. Blaenau Gwent battled to the final whistle, giving a final scoreline of Vale 43 - Blaenau Gwent 0.

A fully deserved victory by the Vale team, with all players adding very worthwhile contributions to the score and victory.

Both captains thanked each other for the manner in which the match was played and thanked the referee, Rob Harrison, and to Old Penarthians Rugby Club for hosting the match.

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GEM sport

Two down (but not out) and Wales still have to pass the SH mental test!

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

WALES went into the second of their autumn tests against reigning world champions South Africa, at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday, with the weight of history, as well as the pent-up frustration of a rugby nation on their shoulders.

After all, the Springboks had won 22 of the 24 meetings since the two sides first locked horns in 1906. Wales had won only once (29-19) on an unforgettable day at the half-completed new stadium in June 1999, to avenge the 96-13 horror show in South Africa the year before.

Even burgeoning superstars JPR Williams, Barry John, Mervyn Davies, John Dawes etc, could manage only a 6-6 draw in their one encounter with the men from the high veldt at Cardiff in 1970, thanks to a try and penalty by Gareth Edwards – the year before they won their first Grand Slam.

(Incidentally, Jim Shanklin, father of current Welsh centre Tom, was on the bench that day).

For the rest, it had been 104 years of unrelieved gloom, which saw South Africa notch up 669 points to Wales' 326 total, though in recent years the gap between the two has gradually narrowed, at least on the scoreboard.

They last met on June 5 this year in Cardiff when Wales lost 31-34, described by head coach Warren Gatland as "an opportunity lost".

If that result was a major disappointment, it was nothing compared to the New Zealander's frustrated reaction to Saturday's 25-29 defeat – after the home team had totally dominated the world champions for large parts of the game.

He candidly confessed that he had "kicked over a few tables" in the dressing room and in the heat of the moment, even seemed to question if his charges would ever defeat one of the southern hemisphere giants. The outburst was perfect-

ly understandable, for the Welsh team had produced one of their most impressive, all-round showings in recent years, surging into a 20-9 lead and forcing the badly-rattled world champs to rely on penalties just to stay in touch.

Wales outscored South Africa by three scintillating tries to two (a brace by explosive teenage wing George North on his international debut, sandwiching one by James Hook, thankfully restored at centre).

With the pack again going well and Stephen Jones regaining his kicking touch and exercising cool control at outside half, Wales seemed to be on course for a rare and momentous victory.

However, yet again it was not to be, for as has happened so often in the past when Wales have taken a commanding early lead, they suddenly dropped their guard, and as was the case against Australia the previous week, that was all the invitation their more canny, worldly-wise opponents needed.

End result? Another battling but fruitless Welsh effort when, as Gatland pointed out, despite the many positives to be taken from their performance – "It's all about winning!"

The former All Black hooker clearly finds it hard to accept that Welsh teams lack the hard mental edge and inbuilt winning mentality that is meat and drink back home in the southern hemisphere.

As the final whistle blew on Saturday, a leading South African commentator asked the question that was on everyone's lips: "How on earth did Wales manage to lose that game?"

He wondered if Welsh players had an "inferiority complex" where the southern hemisphere is concerned.

Ah, that is a puzzle others have pondered over for many a year...

Perhaps it is simply the invisible residue of decades of failure that still induce a kind of submerged fatalism or deep-rooted lack of self-belief when confronted by Kiwis and Springboks.

Whatever the reason, it is clear that the challenge for

today's Wales squad is now more psychological than physical.

One thing is for sure, though, there is precious little time to find the answers, with the World Cup fast approaching and again certain to be dominated by the Tri-Nations.

More immediately, next up is Fiji on Friday evening at the Millennium Stadium, and with memories still raw of the last World Cup defeat that cost his predecessor his job, not forgetting the narrow one-point Welsh win in 2005, Gatland and his assistant coaches will hardly be taking it lightly.

It is, quite simply, a game Wales have to win and win well.

Even so, when the Welsh team was announced on Tuesday, it showed no fewer than nine likely changes from last Saturday's starting line-up.

Ryan Jones returns to the blindside and captains an intriguing mix of older and younger heads, with last Saturday's young hero George North retaining his place on the wing.

The match 22 also includes another exciting young prospect awaiting his turn on the bench – Tongan-born Toby Faletau (19).

With the awesome All Blacks due just a week later, the Welsh camp know full well that there is a real threat of an autumn series whitewash that could seriously undermine squad morale at a critical juncture.

This still delicate plant would then come under even more intense pressure in the Six Nations, as Wales start the run-in to RWC 2011.

The old cliché is true: they have everything to play for – and even more to lose!

WALES TEAM VERSUS FIJI

Lee Byrne; George North, James Hook, Andrew Bishop, Aled Brew; Dan Biggar, Richie Rees; Paul James, Huw Bennett, Adam Jones, Ian Gough, Deiniol Jones, Ryan Jones (capt), Dan Lydiate/Martyn Williams, Jonathan Thomas.

Replacements: Richard Hibbard, John Yapp, Bradley Davies, Toby Faletau, Mike Phillips, Stephen Jones, Tom Shanklin.

Town draw blank in Barry as the winless streak continues...

COWBRIDGE Town FC's winless streak stretched one game further last weekend as they were held to a goalless draw away at mid-table Millwood in a scrappy affair.

The match lacked quality throughout, as both teams struggled to get the ball down and play. Millwood undoubtedly started the better of the two sides, working two half chances from outside the box with which they failed to test the Town keeper.

The younger Town 11 responded

competitively, and had Hans Kennedy or Jack Gavin received a more favourable decision from the referee when given offside when clear through on goal, they may well have put an end to their poor run.

Sadly, that set the tone for the rest of the match, with a fussy refereeing display, out of keeping in a match played with good spirit, disrupting the flow of the match.

The first half ended goalless and Town sensed they would have to find more attacking quality to force a winner. An early injury to talisman Gethin Still did nothing to aid the Town cause and the

match swung in favour of Millwood, who began enjoying more and more possession in the Town half.

Despite their ascendancy the home side remained frustrated by a combination of good last gasp defending and acrobatics from the Town stopper.

Cowbridge failed to respond to the Millwood pressure, but successfully negotiated the clean sheet to share the spoils with their opponents and at least return back home with a point secured.

MR

Cowbridge squash teams press hard for promotion

COWBRIDGE A Bar 44 squash rackets team returned to winning ways in Week 6 with a 4-1 home win against Cardiff University-based Academicals to retain second spot in South Wales Div 2A east.

Cowbridge C also stayed top of the pile in South Glamorgan Division 3 despite a 2-3 home defeat by fellow title contenders UHW A. Meanwhile the B team Bar 44 took a pasting from South Glamorgan Division One champions elect UWIC B – going down 0-5 to the Cyncoed campus students.

The A team lads knew that a maximum-points win would take the team back to joint top of the division and still on the promotion trail (for the fourth campaign in succession).

Simon Payne (No 4) and Garfield Leask (No 3) were first to embark on the night's work – both put in solid 2-0 starts before Payne finished with a flourish 9-0 in the third, but Leask faltered slightly with a tie-break reverse 8-10 before completing the job 9-5 in the fourth.

Contrasting styles were in evidence in each match at strings 2 and 5 – the slight, whippet-like form of Cowbridge No 2 Jon Bisson versus the large frame cannon-hitting Steve Haskill from

Academicals, plus the power game of Niall Sloan versus the 'old lob and drop' trickery of John Patrick at No 5.

The Cowbridge lads managed to impose their methods over the Academicals players – each achieving 3-1 and 3-0 victories respectively.

The tables were set for No 1 Nick Guard to complete a season-first 5-0 result. This looked well on the cards as Guard raced into an 8-0 lead in the first game, but Mark Kingston had other ideas while he adjusted to the away conditions edging back to 4 points in the first game. He never looked back after taking the second with increased retrieval pressure on Guard – this continued for the away No 1 with increased success – Guard finally going down 1-3. Match result 18-5 with bonuses.

The Bs travelled to UWIC knowing their work would be well cut out by the new intake of students at the college, having sampled defeat at their hands earlier in the season. That, indeed, was before the loss of the Cowbridge Nos 1 and 2. There was no great surprise in the 0-5 reverse (2 points to 19 points!), despite all veteran campaigners working hard against their youthful counterparts.

Only Chris Ranger looked in with a shout and actually took strong early leads in several games before eventually going down 2-3.

Cowbridge C still hold top spot in Division 3 of South Glamorgan squash but this is an extremely tight division with only 16 points separating top and bottom.

Week 6 saw Cowbridge C take on the UHW A team with Mike Burnett (No 5) providing a solid start despite losing the first game 4-9 but finally settling down to close out 9-7, 9-5, 9-1.

Tony Steele at No 4 and no stranger to 5-setters duly produced the very same but unfortunately bottomed out 4-9 in the fifth for the match to be levelled at 1-1.

Skipper Dave Matthews restored the lead with an excellent display of controlled squash to win 3-0 at No

3. However, these were the last points the Cs were to gain with both No 2 Hugh Wallace and No 1 Colin Giles returning 0-3 results.

Match result 8-14, put the C team 4 points ahead of their night's opponents at the top.

This week the Bs look for their first win of the season against Old Penarthians B at The Athletic Ground courts (Thursday, 7pm). Meanwhile the As travelled to Caldicot on Wednesday, and the Cs go to Rhiwbina E on Friday.

Club details and membership available from Clive Prigg on 01446 773729 or russ.watts@btopen-world.com.

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